

Maclean's: tactless tabloid or professional periodical?

Once-classy weekly now caters to lowest common denominator



ADAM
GAUMONT

point

On 14 August, eleven of Canada's top universities (now 14 and counting), including our own U of A, sent a letter to *Maclean's* officially stating that they will no longer provide their academic information for the magazine's annual university rankings feature due to flaws inherent in the system—namely, the lack of uniformity among provincial academic standards and thus of compatibility among university results.

Maclean's has defended its position, pointing out that the universities are being un-cooperative and giving them few alternatives to work with. Nevertheless, such a public disavowing of a once widely respected and widely read (if not official) report is the most recent blow to its rapidly decreasing respectability as a news publication.

The slide started when ex-Edmontonian Kenneth Whyte took over as publisher and editor-in-chief in February 2005. Whyte spearheaded a redesign of *Maclean's* that saw it divebomb from a sober news weekly to checkout-stand rag practically overnight.

Don't get me wrong: in the world of news publications, change is good, and redesigns are a vital part of staying current, effective and informative. And if you ask Rogers Media, owners of the magazine since 1994, *Maclean's* most recent revamping undoubtedly shot sales up through the roof. With tasteful front-page teasers like "Divorce a friend," "Mmmm... Flippers: A tasteful defence of the seal hunt," and "Michael Ignatieff: The first interview with the Liberal heir apparent"—featured on the 10 April 2006 issue, even though the Liberal leadership convention doesn't even take place until December of this year—it's no wonder copies are

now flying off the shelves.

Given the general quality of Rogers' print publications—*Chatelaine*, *Flare* and *Loulou* come to mind—it's not surprising that the media giant wanted to push *Maclean's* in the same direction. And while there's nothing wrong with such popular fluff *per se*, when a traditionally reputable news publication sinks to this level as well, it's troubling not only for the magazine itself but also the state of journalism in Canada generally.

Most troubling than its layout and design, however, is *Maclean's* recent tendency to blur the lines between editorial and advertising content. As pointed out in the March/April 2006 issue of *Adbusters*, *Maclean's* ran features in 2005 on "The New Canadian Establishment" sponsored by Cadillac, breaking the cardinal journalistic rule of keeping advertisements separate from editorial content in the process.

More recently, in its 1 September issue, *Maclean's* let aforementioned Liberal "heir apparent" Michael Ignatieff take the helm and write himself a self-endorsatorial entitled "What I would do if I were Prime Minister." Forgetting for a moment the leaders of Canada's other seated opposition parties, can we assume that *Maclean's* will provide an equal number of self-promoting column-inches to the other Liberal leadership candidates? I haven't seen it yet.

Perhaps the magazine's approximate three million readers won't notice little details like lack of journalism ethics, but they undoubtedly will notice what's on the front cover. And unlike the classy *Maclean's* of old, recent issues blurt out nauseating collages, eye-popping yellow and red banners, and sensationalist headlines.

A quick gander at some of the past few months' cover jobs says it all. My personal favourite: "What really happens in Hugh Hefner's bedroom," an in-depth analysis that came out on 14 August—the same day that the above-mentioned eleven universities sent their letter shunning the magazine's popular university ranking system. Coincidence? Probably. Fitting? Definitely.

Redesign resurrects magazine from quagmire of reader apathy



MATT
FREHNER

counterpoint

The universities' decision to pull their support of the annual *Maclean's* rankings was indeed a blow to the magazine's integrity, and sent a strong message that the weekly must clean up its ratings procedure. However, this admittedly deserved action by the University of Alberta and others isn't the final nail in the coffin of the magazine's credibility that Mr Gaumont suggests. In attacking the magazine's new style, he ignores the question of whether the substance had changed for the better—which it certainly has.

Maclean's went under the knife on its 100th birthday for a number of reasons. Most importantly, it had become one of the worst sellers on the newsstand in Canada, and with a falling subscription base, the magazine was in trouble.

Kenneth Whyte unveiled the new *Maclean's* to mixed reviews. A custom typeface and expertly tweaked leading allowed them to sneak more words onto the page without sacrificing readability, while the photo editing took on a more professional, deliberate look. Detractors claimed that the new design made the magazine nothing more than a trashy tabloid, with its often-irrelevant content and sensational, sometimes offensive, headlines and teasers.

Whatever your opinion of the new look, it worked. The magazine was awarded "Canada's magazine of the year" by the 29th Canadian National Magazine Awards. They've also taken readers' input seriously, as evidenced by their new font size and changes to the "newsmakers" page, as well as their movement from a Monday to a Thursday publishing date.

Granted, some of the magazine's covers are a

touch inflammatory. Still, this doesn't speak in any substantive way to the actual *quality* of the articles, but rather the marketing department's desire to sell more issues to keep the publication afloat. Proclaiming it to be "WWIII" on your cover may be alarmist, but it gets people to pick up the issue—after which readers are treated to 15 pages that analyze the intricacies of Hezbollah's presence in the Mideast, from the US' influence to personal experiences of Lebanese Canadians to discussions by a vast array of diplomats and scholars as to why Israel-Lebanon may in fact be the harbinger of WWIII.

This also applied to the article on the Khadr family, which spends eight pages discussing their history and opinions, and serves to provide a lot of background context to the ongoing saga of Omar Khadr, the Canadian accused of killing an American soldier in Afghanistan during his youth and held in Guantanamo Bay for four years without charge—and who's often the recipient of dubious (and, depending on who you ask) alleged legal practices like force-feeding and torture.

These examples aren't the exception, and they do exactly what a good news magazine should: provide context and in-depth analysis of the issues at play in the daily media. If I had to choose between stale content with inoffensive headlines and exemplary analysis with a bit of cheek, I'd go for the latter every time.

Maclean's also features solid political analysis of writers like Paul Wells, John Geddes and Peter C Newman, who together bring a wealth of experience and opinion unsurpassed by any other Canadian publication and which is certainly on par with content in the *Economist* et al.

It's this mix of serious analysis with careful impertinence that makes the new *Maclean's* a weekly staple of mine. I implore you to look beyond the cheesy façade to the tasty analytical innards. Canadians are well-served by this revitalized magazine, which provides a much-needed point of departure for political and social discussion in this country.



U of A Scholarships are the solution!

The Student Awards Office has several scholarship competitions with fall deadlines.

- Each competition has its own set of criteria and eligibility requirements as outlined in the following descriptions.
- For additional information on these and other University of Alberta Scholarships please visit our website www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards or the Student Awards Office at 1-80 Students' Union Building.

Jason Lang Scholarship

The Jason Lang Scholarships were created in honor of Jason Lang, a 17 year old Alberta high school student who was killed in a school shooting. These \$1,000 scholarships are designed to reward the outstanding academic achievement of Alberta postsecondary students who are continuing into their second, third, or fourth year of studies.

Applicants must be Alberta residents who have achieved a minimum GPA of 3.2 on 24 units of course weight in their previous year of studies (September to April).

**Students can submit their applications on-line at www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards.
The deadline to apply is 15 September 2006.**

University of Alberta Undergraduate Academic Scholarship Competition

The Undergraduate Academic Scholarship Competition recognizes and rewards students for superior academic achievement (minimum GPA of 3.5) on a full normal course load taken at the University of Alberta during the September to April academic year. Applicants must be returning to full-time studies in September 2006 to be eligible for these scholarships.

There are approximately 300 awards available through this competition. The awards range in value from \$500 to \$4,000 with some being Faculty specific and some open to students in any Faculty.

**Students can submit their applications on-line at www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards.
The deadline to apply is 30 September 2006.**

Rhodes Scholarship

The Rhodes Scholarship Competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students in any Faculty. These scholarships are tenable at the University of Oxford in England and cover fees, board and lodging, and travel expenses for two years of study. Scholars may follow their own choice of study and are required to attend Oxford in October 2007.

Applicants must be Canadian citizens or living in Canada; have been born between October 2, 1982 and October 1, 1988; and have received an undergraduate degree before attending Oxford (except medical students).

**Applications are available at the Student Awards Office.
The deadline to apply is 1 October 2006**

Undergraduate Leadership Awards

The University of Alberta Leadership Awards Program is designed to recognize those undergraduate students who have demonstrated leadership skills and potential through involvement and participation in university and/or community organizations, sports, and cultural or political activities.

There are approximately 50 awards available through this competition. The awards range in value from \$500 to \$12,500 with some being Faculty specific and some open to students in any Faculty.

**Application forms are available on the Student Awards website at www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards.
The deadline to apply is 15 October 2006**



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: MIKE OTTO

Clean up your act, dirtbags



ELIZABETH
VAIL

Now that you're responsible and intelligent adults attending university, you may think that your mama's rules don't apply to you. In most cases, this is true. I really couldn't care less if you decided to eat your steak with your fingers, leave your elbows on the table, drink in the afternoon or cut in line while buying your textbooks at the bookstore (because in that situation, people stronger and more annoyed than I won't hesitate to beat you to death with their 900-page mechanical engineering textbook). There are some rules, though, that I must implore you to follow.

First of all, for the love of God, don't give up on showering. At the very least, grab a sponge and hog the nearest water fountain if you're strapped for time—or if you've watched *Psycho* too many times to consider a shower stall the safest place to be.

As children we're allowed to run

bare-bottomed through the neighbourhood in an effort to evade the detested weekly bath, but now that you're in university, you needn't return to those times of "nakee-nakee!"—nor does it mean that you may do without the use of soap and water. If people have to sit close to you for 60–80 minutes without moving, you should take care not to smell like you just went frolicking through a field of rotten fruit before taking a dip in a river of diaper gravy.

This also applies to strong fragrances and perfumes. Ignoring the fact that some students are allergic to these—and that Sex Panther has been illegal in Canada since the Anchorman Massacre of '75—we must remember that with a student population of around 30 000, it's highly unlikely that you'll be the only person wearing a strong scent.

While Britney Spears' Fantasy fragrance might smell nice on its own, if someone next to you has sprayed herself 20 times with J-Lo's Glow, the result of the two scents' diva-style catfight for Celebrity-sponsored perfume supremacy is going to be nauseating for every one else in the class.

I've also noticed that spitting has become a popular habit for university

students. What is it with your fixation with vandalizing the campus with your bodily fluids? Are you possessed of a subconscious, evolutionary desire to mark your territory? Or do you just get lost easily and think that by leaving a trail of saliva you can find your way back to the Students' Union Building?

Perhaps you should just try swallowing what's in your mouth. You can't just unzip your pants and piss on the sidewalk or take a dump in Quad. Spitting, to me, is no less disgusting. Keep whatever's in your mouth in your mouth, unless you are performing a service, in which case, take it out of your mouth and go get a freakin' room already.

You're a young adult, yes. You're entitled to be part of adult society, yes. But that doesn't mean that you have to do away with all of the precepts imposed on you throughout your young life. The reason you have been made, as a child, to bathe and to speak politely and to arrange your knife and fork a certain way is precisely so that you may behave properly in adult society, and so that others are comfortable dealing with and around you. If you insist on stinking and spitting to your heart's content, then be prepared to stink and spit by yourself.

If I ran the zoo... I'd close it down



TYSON
DURST

There are many members of the species known as *Homo sapiens* who love going to zoos in order to observe members of the animal kingdom up close in artificially constructed recreations of their natural habitats. But after my latest visit to the local zoo this summer, I have come to the conclusion that I don't fall into this category of humanoids.

Sure, the Edmonton Valley Zoo has exotic animals that you don't see everyday, such as elephants, monkeys and prairie gophers, but as I meandered around and observed the various smelly, hairy specimens on display, my enthusiasm was quickly deflated.

It wasn't that the monkeys were too hot to throw even a single piece of their own feces in my general direction, or that the zookeepers won't let you take home a free gerbil or a duck.

No, it was the grim reminder at

every other exhibit that the animal that you are gawking at is an endangered animal that's quickly approaching extinction. Loss of habitat, poaching and pollution are mentioned as the usual culprits.

Walking around the zoo, I was constantly reminded that humans aren't content to simply wipe out members of their own species; they also feel the need to carry over their genocidal tendencies into whatever's left of the natural world.

Thus my mood descended into jaded cynicism, and I was glad that I don't yet have children of my own, as this harsh dose of reality would have completely ruined their day.

"See that beautiful tiger in that picture, kids? It'll soon be completely wiped off the face of the earth because some people think its head looks better hanging over a mantelpiece. Others chop off the testicles of the males to use in the production of chemicals or maybe just to eat as a delicacy. Now, who wants ice cream?"

Not content merely to tell me how the various animals are doing on a scale of "thriving" to "completely fucked," it seemed that the zoo had some irony in store for me as well. In

my afternoon safari, I came across an indoor section that was set up as an educational exhibit to teach the kids all about animals and nature.

Now, I'm all for education, but even I raised an eyebrow when, upon further inspection, I noticed that the exhibit was sponsored by a major oil company. Call me paranoid, but it made me want to break out into a bout of depressed, insane laughter before drowning myself in a barrel of crude oil—just after inhaling directly from the exhaust pipe of a running SUV while sustaining a gunshot wound to the leg from an unseen poacher lurking in the parking lot.

However, I did learn one thing from this visit: my next trip to learn about nature will be an overdue return to Drumheller. At the Royal Tyrrell Museum, I can walk around completely free of guilt, assured that as an individual and as a member of a larger species, I had absolutely nothing to do with the extinction of the dinosaurs and other prehistoric animal and plant life. Unless the evangelical Christian theory of natural history is correct, in which case I think I'll just pay somebody to slay me with the jawbone of a T-Rex as penance.

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Pluto: proper planet or undeserving dwarf?

A frozen hunk of ice does not a planet make, Ostad. Let's rid our solar system of such shameful planetary impurity



ANDREW
NEWBORN

point

I'm brilliant, it's impossible to deny. It's easily proven too. For years I've been saying that Pluto shouldn't be considered a planet, and it seems astronomers have finally caught up to my all-encompassing understanding of everything and set the solar system right.

Pluto's orbit is what NASA scientists refer to as "whacked the fuck out." You see, it just doesn't line up with the eight real planets of the solar system. It likes to hang out with other galactic hoodlums, like that gaggle of ice balls in the Kuiper Belt who could never afford a better orbit. Real planets have nice, clean, round orbits close to the sun like Earth and Mars. Sometimes, as with Jupiter, they blow their wealth on a giant body and hang out a little further away. But Pluto never could compete, and scientists have finally shown the little bastard the door.

You see, Kuiper Belt objects, along with their dwarf-planet kin, just don't understand what it takes to be a planet. They don't bother clearing their orbits of other objects, and sometimes they're so small they can't even overcome rigid body forces to make themselves round!

Becoming a planet is like joining an exclusive club: there are rules for these sorts of things, and they must be strictly enforced. We need to keep the riff-raff out—otherwise any jackass of a rock could become a planet, and I'd never be able to remember all their names. If Pluto had remained a planet, that would have cleared the way for potentially dozens more planets. It's a

chilling thought for someone like me, whose overpowered brain couldn't be bothered to actually memorize his multiplication tables.

But mere mortals that they are, astronomers still lag behind the type of super-intelligence that my Arts education has granted me, and their scientific definition of a planet still fails to live up to my rigorous testing. The persons responsible for deciding this new definition didn't bother including anything about objects with eccentric orbits. Any real planet ought to have an orbit shaped like a beautiful, perfectly spherical woman. Pluto's orbit is elliptical, however, and it intercepts with the orbit of Neptune, so it could have just as easily been kicked out by my own, much sexier definition.

If the scientists of the world were all as intelligent as me, they would have figured out interstellar travel by now, and we'd know what other solar systems look like. Since they aren't that smart, and since and they haven't figured out interstellar travel, very little is known about other solar systems. It's impossible right now to know if our system is the standard, and I can dig it if the definition of a planet has to keep changing to keep up with new discoveries—I'm just going on what our solar system *looks* like.

You're a snob of galactic proportions, Newborn. Discriminating against dwarf planets is so 20th century



RAMIN
OSTAD

counter-point

I have to say Newborn, I am shocked and appalled by the things you've just said. As an Arts student, you should have learned a little something about

equality, decency and respect by now, but I guess you haven't.

I guess the field of astronomy has been taken over by people like you—people who would like nothing more than to see planets like Pluto be excluded from the privileges that come from being a part of our solar system. In short, you, sir, are nothing more than a Planetist.

You base your "science" on how "whack" poor Pluto's orbit is based on all of the other planets.

You call it a "hoodlum" simply because it has no one else but its friends in the Kuiper Belt. You call them "dwarf" planets and "ice balls"—discriminatory adjectives to say the least—and poke fun at their disenfranchisement simply because they couldn't

afford large planetary bodies or unobstructed orbits like the other "real" planets could.

Just because a body's orbit is elliptical—or because it intersects with Neptune's, or because it's smaller—doesn't mean that you have the right to add and remove it from the list of relevance whenever you please. These bodies, even the ones that aren't perfectly curvaceous, have just as much right to be planets as all the others in our solar system. They're there, they may be square, get used to it.

The problem with people like you, Newborn, is that you're so used to sitting on your high horse of livable planetary existence that you care nothing for all those other planets trying to make something of themselves.

How dare you be so prejudiced towards Pluto just because it's a little more eccentric than all of the other so-called "real" planets? You should be ashamed of yourself. All you have proven here is that you're afraid of what might happen if we did start adding more "jackass" planets.

There would be dozens of them, Newborn. Dozens of planets that don't fit your ideal of planets shaped like fat, rich women and have perfect, non-eccentric orbits. Dozens of planets that are jagged, that have elliptical or square or trapezoid orbits.

What would you do then? Would your "superior" intellect suddenly quiver in fear at the prospect of that much memorization? Would it scare you to know that maybe, just maybe, your "perfect" solar system was to be invaded by these "hoodlum" planets who really want nothing more than to belong?

One day, you and your elite Planetist friends will learn their lesson—mark my words. But until that day comes, the poor bodies of the Kuiper Belt will have to find a new system to call home—and I, for one, will gladly help them.

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AMANDA
TERMEER

At the beginning of a new semester, many students wake up and have an epiphany. At this point, five simple words are boldly proclaimed: this year will be different.

Reasons for changing can be anything from the desire for parental approval to personal perfectionism. Either way, students can choose to stagnate their progress or flourish in the learning environment offered at the University of Alberta.

There are a variety of resolutions that students can have for a new school year. They can be as simple as running a sub-20-minute race or as complex as completing a PhD in molecular genetics. However, for the rest of us, one of the most common resolution is to hit the books, study hard and finally pull off a good GPA.

The lofty notion of achieving high marks is so common that tons of seminars are offered to help students achieve their annual goals. Academia thrives on young minds who desperately want to improve. Tutors make a living by attempting to teach students

“With so many reasons to achieve, it’s somewhat surprising that students find themselves pulled into a world of slacking, mediocrity and even failure—yet they do it time and time again. To compensate for such failures, they fall back onto previous achievements.”

new concepts that will enable them to ace their courses. Week Of Welcome introduces new students to all of the various programs offered to ensure an easy adjustment into university life. University also offers many extra-curricular programs to make achieving excellence possible.

Every group of students has its own reason for high academic achievements. First-years are filled with blind ambitions and assume that university will be as easy as high school. Second-years think that they will understand the system better and therefore be better able to play the game of academia to score killer marks. Third-year students realize their marks suddenly count towards determining whether they will graduate with distinction and make it into grad school. And fourth-years just want to go out with a bang. Overall, everyone has a reason to believe they should strive for excellence.

These great expectations for the new year quickly disintegrate, and inevitably, homework assignments

remain undone well past their due dates, sparkling new textbooks remain unopened and unread, and hours spent drinking may well outnumber those spent studying.

With so many reasons to achieve, it’s somewhat surprising that students find themselves pulled into a world of slacking, mediocrity and even failure—yet they do it time and time again. To compensate for such failures, they fall back onto previous achievements: and instead of discussing a failing assignment for a tough course, discussions of aced high school diploma exams will dominate the discussion—because reverting to the glories of the past is better than accepting a dismal future.

The problem here is that talk is cheap, so rather than bragging about your potential, you should actually start walking the walk. Rather than slacking, put some effort into your academic life. Strive to exceed potential and expectations—even your own—because after all this year will be different, right?

Time for a lesson in Slacking 101



MICHAEL
SMITH

It’s that time of year ladies and gentlemen: back to the ol’ grind of school! At least, it is for those of us who aren’t over-achievers (or desperately trying to complete our degrees)—and who don’t believe in Spring and Summer terms.

I’m faced with the same dilemma at the beginning of every new semester—one that taxes me to the breaking point. For anyone not entering first year (since they’re too doe-eyed to be this cynical), I’m going to break down this first week for you.

Wednesday, as you have probably already discovered by the time you read this, involved waking up, going to your classes, and receiving many a syllabi. Thursday, same thing: wake up, go to class, receive syllabi. For these first two days, most of us only pay attention to whether or not the final exam will be cumulative. After that, we set off blissfully to the beer gardens to drink ourselves into a stupor and try to forget the small amount of information the professor just attempted to convey.

This is where my personal dilemma comes in. You see, it’s on the almighty Friday that I face my greatest challenge: whether to go to class at all. I’m sure most of you will have faced a similar dilemma as you show up for that 8am class on the third day of school, only to have the professor smite your will to live with the words, “Who hasn’t received their syllabus yet?”

Looking forward to a long weekend,

you’re instead treated either to a repeat of the first class or to one of those round-table introductions where you learn the name of every person in your class, what their major is and whatever other information I need to know about the people I will secretly loath for the next four months due to their clearly superior intellect.

Of course, if every professor did this, the choice would be an easy one. Some, however, knowing that they have no chance of getting through the syllabus, try anyways. Sometimes, just to be annoying, they may hand out year-end group assignments on the first day, then never mention said group assignments again until you ask them weeks later when such assignments will be passed out.

Well of course I *should* have been there that day, but if I was there, how would I have been able to watch the entire first season of the original *Star Trek* series in my underwear? Beat that logic!

So, based on this dilemma, I’ve devised a new proposal to the University: make Friday a mandatory holiday for all staff and students. It’s really a win-win situation. Those professors who feel some crazy desire to crush the spirit of their students as soon as possible will have no choice but to delay the end of hope until the following Monday.

This way, the cool profs can spare me the touchy-feely crap about people I will probably want to forget about afterwards anyways, and realize at the same time that they won’t get through their syllabus either and start some actual teaching instead.

As for us students, we will enjoy a well-deserved respite from the hard work that proceeded this newly created long weekend, and I might not feel guilty about skipping class for once. That is, until Monday of course.

THE BURLAP SACK

Now, I’m not usually one to bemoan the loss of material possessions. “Ebb and flow with the tide,” my Zen guru used to say. “Detach yourself from what you own, and happiness will come.” Well, fuck that; because, last night, some Whyte-area hooligan killed my bike, and, dammit, I really liked that bike.

Let me set the stage for you. There I was, enjoying a strawberry-banana milkshake while editing newspaper copy and watching the season premiere of *House*—blissfully unaware of the chaos unfolding on the street below. However, when I went to retrieve my bike a little after 1am, I found my lock difficult to open.

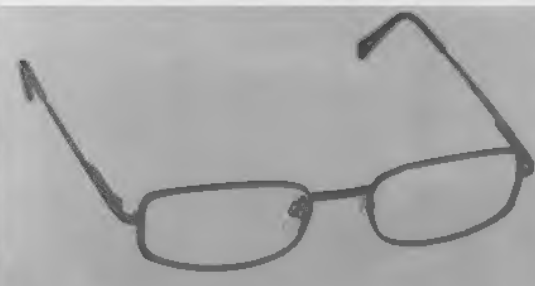
I quickly realized that said lock had been compacted into my bicycle’s top tube, creating a savage, irreparable bend. Its structural integrity compromised, I walked home, dejected.

It was a Schwinn Moab—from back when Schwinn was a reputable company—and had served as my trusty steed for many a grueling and spectacular off-road trail in Banff and Jasper. Without complaint, my Schwinn propelled me through seven Edmonton winters—the most recent of which as my only method of transportation.

This bike served me well, and I’m indeed saddened by its loss; but worse still is that this act of violence gained nothing for anyone. And so, were my sack big enough, I would use it to beat into oblivion all the world’s senseless acts of violence.

MATT FREHNER

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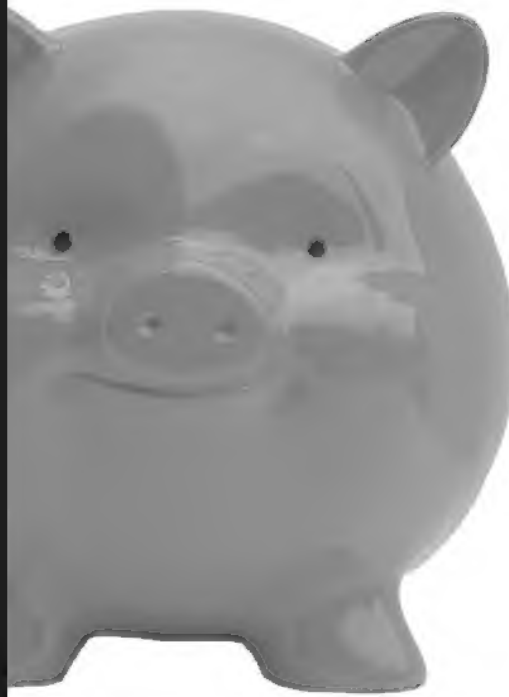
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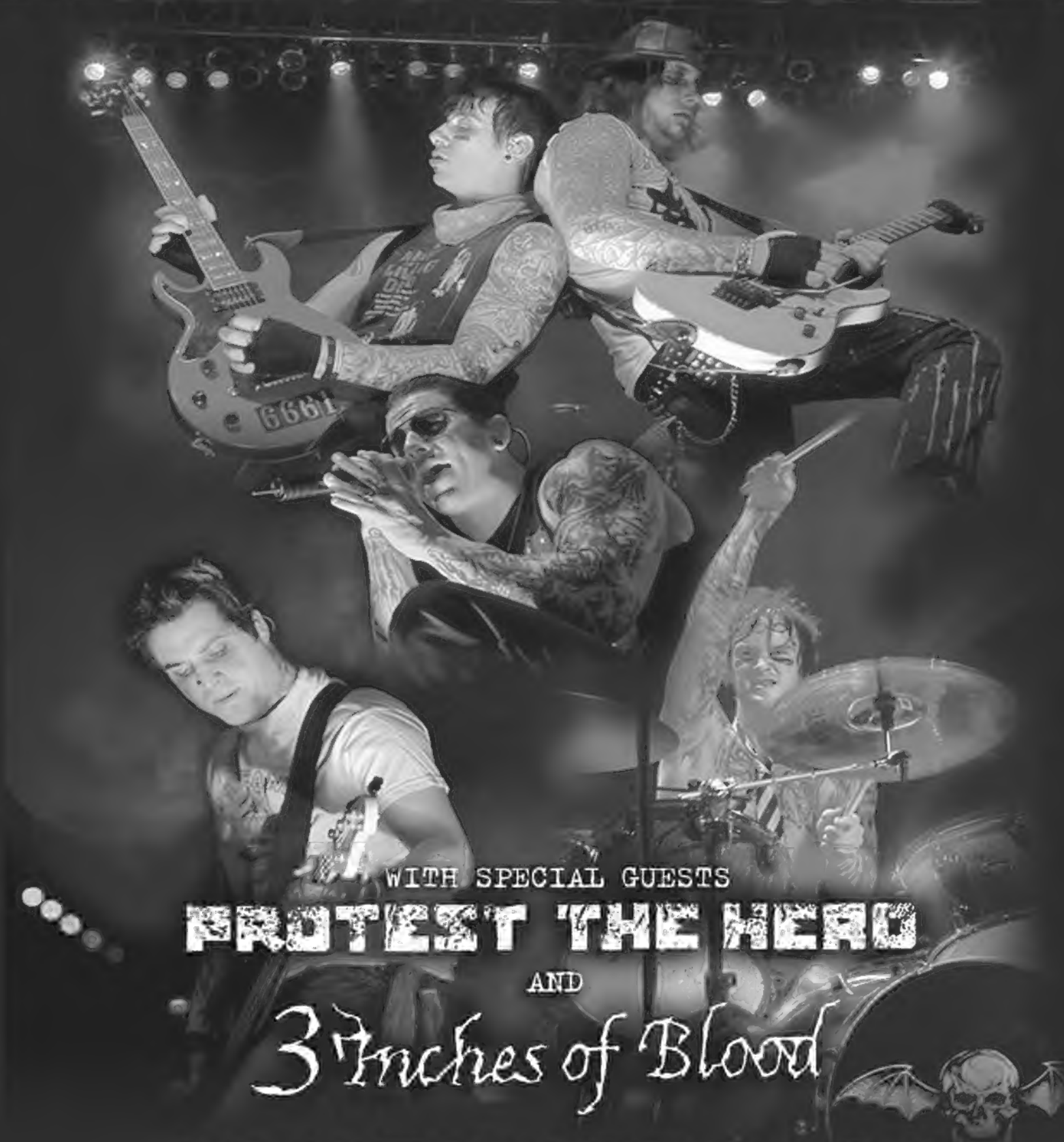
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SWWho's UWWho?

On the second floor of the Students' Union Building, the five members of the Students' Union Executive sit in their offices waiting for action. At the helm is SU President Samantha Power, whose voice represents the entire undergraduate population. Her minions, Vice-President (Academic) Amanda Henry, Vice-President (External) Dave Cournoyer, Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Chris Cunningham and Vice-President (Student Life) Omer Yusuf, work at her side and within the greater body of Students' Council to make decisions that affect you—whether you notice them or not. Ruling over almost 30 000 undergraduate students, I would like to introduce, your student government.

Written by Chloé Fedio
Photos by Josh Nault

Samantha Power — President

As VP (External) last year, Samantha Power was neck deep in dealing with off-campus issues, like the provincial government's postsecondary education review and working with the municipal government in the hopes of finally achieving a universal bus pass for students. Now President of the SU, she's taking more of a leadership role, coordinating the members of the Executive and adding cohesion to their many projects—and shifting gears from her usual beat.

"It was a little difficult to let them go," the political science student admits, "But it wasn't as difficult because there are really good people working on the issues that I was involved in, so it's really good that we can work together on them."

As President, Power spends her time looking at the larger picture and focusing on on-campus issues like the SU's financial troubles with the Powerplant and lobbying the Administration for more student input in academics.

Still, Power's focus on the postsecondary review last year—which came under question when then-minister of advanced education David Hancock, who spearheaded the review, resigned before the results were in—has helped the SU narrow in on ongoing concerns, like funding issues and the lack of student space at the University of Alberta.

"Our provincial work hasn't let up: we've been really active with this new Minister in making sure that the results of the review, as minimal as they were, aren't really forgotten and that they still need to be implemented," Power says, pointing to Ralph Klein's promise for the most affordable tuition policy in the country, which has yet to be announced despite his pending resignation.

Ultimately, along with the rest of the Executive,

Power hopes to help improve the quality of teaching at the U of A and promote the growth of student space on campus and in other provincial institutions.

"The five of us are students' advocates to the University and to the provincial and municipal governments: we're talking to those people on a daily basis and trying to change their decisions to be more student-friendly, and that has an impact on the quality of teaching that you're getting, how your professor interacts with you on a daily basis and how your student finance works," Power explains.

Amanda Hendry — VP (Academic)

Amanda Henry was the sole candidate running for VP (Academic), but it certainly wasn't by luck that she got the job. The fourth-year double major in Political Science and Middle-Eastern and African studies spent a year in training as Associate VP (Academic) and was ready to take over the reigns in May.

"The biggest change is that I don't have to order pizza anymore," she says with a laugh. "This job is a lot heavier on policy planning and issues type-things and the other job was more about coordinating volunteers."

Still, her role as AVPA has made for a smooth transition, and Henry is well versed on the plethora of academic issues that the SU deals with, from information and technology in the classroom to the review of first-year English classes.

Growing up in Hay Lakes, Alberta, Henry spent her spare time debating policy as a teenage politician, and was all too eager to continue on this path in university.

"I was actually involved in my student government in high school, as secretary of my high school students' union. Geek once, geek forever," said the Wetaskawin Composite High

School graduate.

And though the SU at the U of A is responsible for organizing social events and creating a community for the students it represents—much like high-school student governments—Henry stresses that this aspect is a small part of a much larger organization that takes on the responsibility of student advocacy in the hopes of improving the institution and the quality of education it provides.

"The reason I exist is because a university education isn't as regulated as a high school education; there's no such things as a diploma exam here, so it's totally up to the University in terms of what they offer and how they offer it," Henry says. "My job is to be the student input on those processes."

Dave Cournoyer — VP (External)

Every year, students hold their breath as they wait to hear how much tuition will go up—and how much penny pinching will be necessary to avoid a downward spiral into heavier and heavier debt. And after spending two years researching postsecondary funding and tuition at the SU, VP (External) Dave Cournoyer is launching into these issues with enthusiasm, lobbying the government and the Administration to create more student-friendly policies.

"The learning curve was still a little steep, moving into this position, but I think I have a bit of an advantage, having that experience in the past," he says. "I have that kind of background."

Like three other members of this year's Executive, Cournoyer is a Political Science major, entering his fourth year of studies at the U of A.

"It's the year of the PoliSci student. It's funny 'cause last year, there were three engineers in Exec positions and this year there are three political science students," he laughs.

“The five of us are students’ advocates to the University and to the provincial and municipal governments”

SAMANTHA POWER, PRESIDENT

“I think most students would be just blown away with what we actually do accomplish in one year and what we are responsible for”

CHRIS CUNNINGHAM, VP (OPERATIONS AND FINANCE)

Cournoyer is particularly concerned with the province’s passing of Bill 40 in the spring, an unpopular piece of legislation, criticized by students and members of the opposition alike, for taking tuition out of legislation. Despite the promise to make Alberta’s tuition the most affordable in the country, Cournoyer is skeptical that this bill will promote the creation of a more sustainable tuition policy.

“Whatever tuition policy this current government brings out, if it’s not in legislation and it’s only in regulation, students have no assurance that the policy will even be the same in six months. So it’s important that it gets back into legislation,” Cournoyer says.

For the past two years, students have been paying the same tuition levels as in 2004/05, but Cournoyer quickly points out that tuition has still been going up every year at each provincial institution.

“It was never a rollback: the University was rebated,” he says, explaining that the government has been buffering the cost, but not decreasing the high levels of tuition, despite their promise for the most affordable tuition. “I don’t think keeping the status quo creates the most affordable anything.”

Chris Cunningham — VP (Operations and Finance)

Chris Cunningham isn’t your average student politician; in fact, before he was voted in as VP (Operations and Finance) last spring, he wasn’t involved in the SU at all. But, despite his lack of practical experience in Council Chambers, Cunningham is adjusting well and is confident in his position.

“It’s been a really great experience,” Cunningham says. “It was pretty much exactly what I thought it would be; it’s been a pretty smooth transition.”

With close to \$10 million for an operating budget, Cunningham is aware of the responsibility he has to keep the SU afloat.

“I think most students would be just blown away with what we actually do accomplish in one year and what we’re responsible for,” he says, dispelling some misconceptions about the organization. “A lot of people don’t see the

distinction between the Students’ Union and the University—but they’re completely separate entities.”

The Economics student started at the U of A studying molecular genetics, but after three years decided to change gears and made the leap to the Faculty of Arts.

“I’ve actually been at this school longer than I’d like to admit,” Cunningham says with a smile.

So far, Cunningham has implemented former VP (operations and finance) Jason Tobias’ proposal to save the plummeting Powerplant, which has been operating at a loss for the past six years. Formerly a restaurant and bar all week long, the ‘Plant will function under its traditional model from Thursday–Saturday, while it will be open as a student space from Monday–Wednesday. The ‘Plant will also be sectioned off: what was once Dewey’s, the northernmost part of the building, will be rebranded the “Powerplant coffee shop,” while the easternmost section will provide buffet services.

“I’m really into trying to expand the business portfolio of the Students’ Union, so there’s still quite a bit of ideas on my radar,” says Cunningham, hinting at future plans the SU has yet to unveil.

Omer Yusuf — VP (Student Life)

Hidden behind a giant poster board of a red Transformer, which is trying desperately not to block the door to Omer Yusuf’s office, is a smaller cut-out of Captain Picard. These are just a few props being used across campus in the SU’s Week of Welcome events, whose slogan espouses a humorous ring: “Geeks unite.”

“If this year’s Week of Welcome theme hasn’t given it away, I’m a really big nerd,” Yusuf admits.

As VP (Student Life), Yusuf is engaged with planning student events, but he doesn’t want to limit himself to such a narrow scope of responsibility. Two major issues that have been taking up his time are the mandatory fees imposed on students by the University, and Aramark’s monopoly on campus food services.

“[My job is] anything that’s non-academic in nature, which is pretty much just a big sack of anything,” he explains.

While Yusuf feels that there’s a sufficient process that makes SU fees and dedicated fee units—created by a referendum and stating a specific use for the funds collected—transparent to students, there’s less information about the operation and collection of University fees that are part of students’ tuition.

“We’re trying to get mechanisms in place so there’s a better understanding in how those fees are collected just so that students have an input on a fee that basically levied against them for their benefit,” Yusuf says.

Aside from the issue of mandatory fees, the ongoing dissatisfaction with Aramark on campus has brought upon the creation of a committee, comprised of University administrators and members of the SU, with the goal of including more student voice in food services.

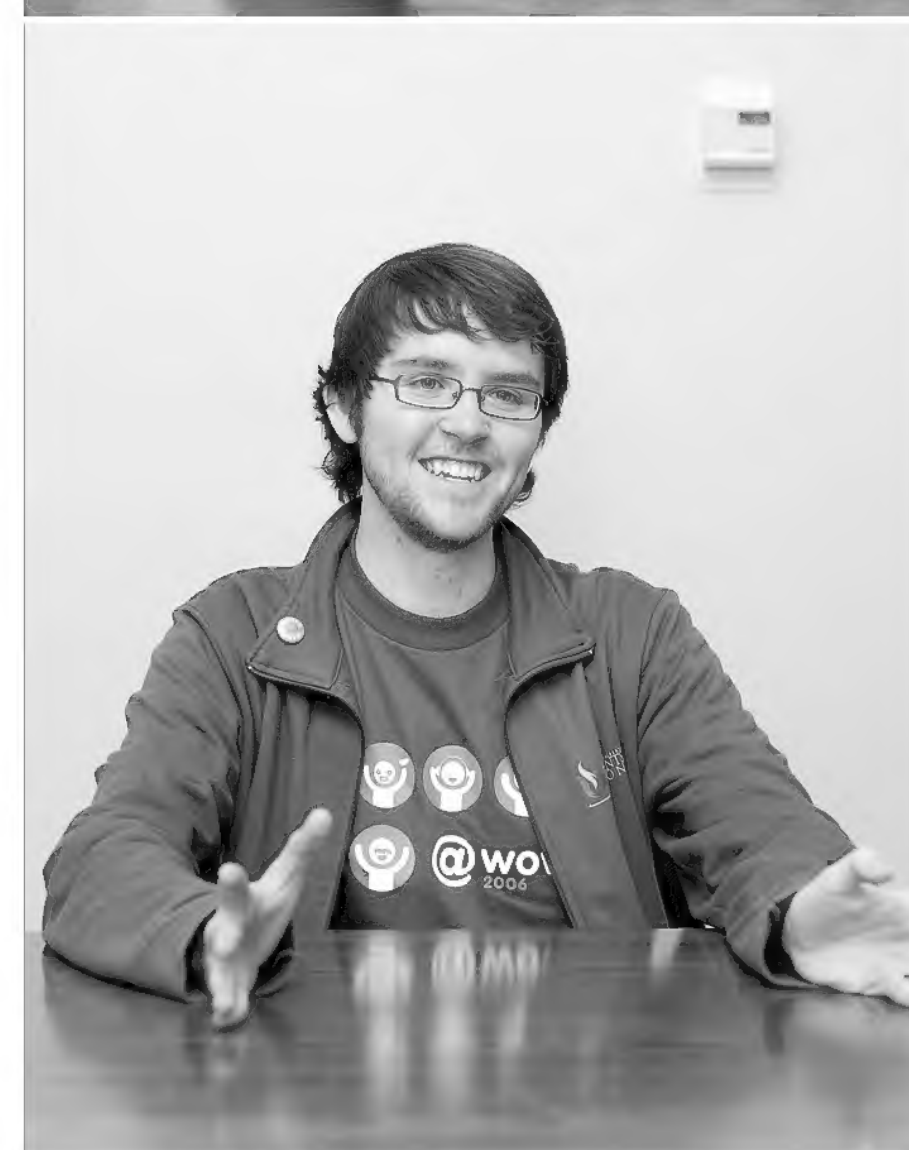
Yusuf, who graduated with a degree in Physiology and Developmental Biology last spring, feels kind of like the odd guy out, as the other four members of the Executive are studying in the Faculty of Arts.

But his history of involvement in student life—he spent two years as a science councillor and three years working at Orientation—keeps him well-entrenched in the organization and this year’s VPSL is looking forward to working with the SU’s many volunteers.

“I really do at heart still kind of consider myself a volunteer, and I try to remember all that kind of stuff when I go out planning,” he says.

Students’ Council

The five members of the Executive are part of a greater whole in student government: Students’ Council. Every second Tuesday, along with 42 Faculty Councillors, (distributed proportionally based on their population) and the non-voting General Manager and Speaker, Council meets to administer student affairs and manage other student organizations. From analyzing the wording of referendum questions, put to students to levy extra fees or promote radical change (such as banning the sales and use of tobacco on campus) to debating the effectiveness of SU services, Council spends most of its time bogged down in debate. The future political hopefuls meet in University Hall’s Council Chambers.



Rate of the Union

Resident hacks Matt Frehner and Ross Prusakowski dismember the SU and feast upon the juicy entrails within



President Samantha Power

Ross: In the March election, Power obviously benefited from running against a weak field, as her campaign lacked vision and major goals. So far she's basically just continued to work as another Vice-President (External), pushing for the U-Pass and discussing how the Conservative Party's upcoming leadership race might affect tuition. There's no real on-campus connection or focus with most of her projects. I think this is particularly apparent with respect to the demolition of the Physics building and renovations being undertaken in BioSci. The effect this will have on the quality of our education—an issue and concern that should be a “home-run pitch” for any SU president—hasn't been substantively addressed by Power or the SU. And it's going to be hard for Power to do anything substantive after the summer months because that's the time you can get your big plans started. Once classes resume, the day-to-day business of the SU does too, leaving less time to start new projects.

Matt: I agree that her focus remains a bit off-campus, though it's kind of hard to tell, as we're still in the summer months, and people are still getting things together and organized. The Revolutionary Speaker Series lineup looks good this year, to Sam's credit. She has certainly done a fantastic job on the external advocacy side—as good as can be expected anyway, with such an obstinate government in Alberta. I'm confident that we'll hear more from her about on-campus issues in the coming weeks, though I haven't really heard of any major projects coming down the pipe. However, that's a problem in itself—if the SU and its president are planning anything grandiose, they need to let stu-

dents know.

Quality of education is more than just attempting to reorganize tuition policy, working with the Council of Alberta University Students, that kind of thing. It's also affected by what's going on on-campus all the time—things like bookstore line-ups, food services and classroom sizes are at the forefront of most students' minds. Those are the issues that people actually get pissed off about; however, it's the big projects—postsecondary policy, government funding, and the like—that will really affect students in the future. It's important to balance both the immediate concerns of students with long-range advocacy projects.

Vice-President (Operations & Finance) Chris Cunningham

M: In general, the SU's businesses have been doing okay; however, with the Powerplant losing in the vicinity of \$170 000 last year, and RATT turning a profit only because it doesn't have to pay rent, there seems to be a major hole in the SU's business plan. These places just aren't attractive to students anymore, it seems, except through mere convenience. So, how does the 'Plant's new identity change things? Where did this idea of the buffet and coffee shop come from? I applaud Cunningham and the SU for attempting to revitalize an ailing business, but I'm still skeptical about its success.

In any case, I remember that Cunningham was very clear in his campaign that students shouldn't have to foot the bill for SU projects, and that SU revenue should come solely from its own businesses, without any fee levied on students. And it doesn't seem to me that what's going on at RATT and at the 'Plant, which is a huge project to under-

take, is going to make any appreciable difference.

R: I know that the renovation plan for the 'Plant came from last year's Council and was basically dumped into Cunningham's lap—something that's symptomatic of most Council projects, in a sense, given the amount of turnover every year. But, like every VPOF candidate for as long as I've been on campus, he pledged to make the 'Plant profitable, and also wanted to find ways to cut SU fees through other sources of revenue for the organization. For someone who came across as being so profit-oriented during his campaign, I'm disappointed that he hasn't yet made it clear to Council, and to students in general, where the line is with this renovated 'Plant. I think he needs to clearly articulate just how much money will be too much for the 'Plant to lose before he says to Council that, “Hey, we need to shut this place down.”

The idea that the SU can create revenue from other sources is something that blew the other candidates out of the race, but now students need to hear some actual plans and projects. Plastering Zoom Media ads everywhere, or having it be the “University of Alberta Students' Union Presented By Coke,” won't go over well. But, four months into his term we still don't know what his plans are.

Vice-President (Academic) Amanda Henry

M: Amanda Henry has been doing a fairly good job, except that a lot of her work has flown under the radar. The 24/7 SUB is perhaps the most high-profile of her projects, but the Academic Plan Report was detailed and well done—if insanely dry—and her other projects seems to be moving along as well.



“The secret, really, in making student politics interesting is not to make them sexy or appealing or anything like that, but to make people aware of the issues and why they matter—to put a bug in each student’s ear.”

R: I have to agree. The fact that the VP (Academic) is by nature much more of a long-term planning position means it’s hard to judge Amanda’s progress in just four months. Helped by the fact that she was Assistant VP (Academic) last year, she entered the job knowing what was required, and so didn’t spend the first three months of her term getting a handle on what each General Faculties Committee does. Right now it might seem like she’s getting an easier ride from us than some of her fellow Exec members, but VPA is definitely a job that’s better evaluated a year or two down the line, so you can see how effective they were at nosing the peanut along and if—for example—their work eventually got add/drop deadline extended in subsequent years.

Vice-President (Student Life) Omer Yusuf

R: At the best of times I have trouble figuring out what it is that the VPSL actually does. As much as I disliked the health plan proposal from 2004/05 VPSL Duncan Taylor, it was at least an ambitious project. Yusuf seems to be all about Orientation, WOW, “From Backpack to Briefcase” and just the general program side of his portfolio. That’s okay, but it’s not the only part of the portfolio, and—as much as I criticized Power earlier for not taking the lead on student issues on campus—this is also something that Yusuf definitely needs to pick up on as well.

M: One thing I want to see from both Yusuf and Cunningham is progress on the food service task force that has been struck to evaluate food service on campus, particularly Aramark’s. I’d love to see some real solutions that address students’ concerns about price and food quality, but I’m skeptical of anything that’s called a “task force.” It sounds like it’s really just a bunch of people sitting around, listening closely to each other’s opinions, and then doing absolutely nothing. But these issues are very important to students, especially in Lister, and any progress on this front would be a real break through for Yusuf.

Vice-President (External) Dave Cournoyer

M: VP (External) is a hard portfolio to evaluate, because it’s very difficult to work with such a stubborn provincial government. When you have a minister of advanced education who offers, what, two hours of his time to consult with students—university student-executives included—it’s difficult to get a word in. And the rebates the Alberta Government has been offering the last few years haven’t been a signal of any progressive policy, but rather an example of what happens when a government falls ass-backwards into heaps of oil and gas revenue. This is because rebate is only a year-to-year deal, leaving students in the dark as to the future of tuition policy in Alberta. The problem is that it doesn’t include any sort of plan. That’s what would be frustrating for me, if I was in Cournoyer’s shoes: the government says they’ve done a lot, when really they’ve just pumped some cash in short term without an eye to the future. In this, the work that Dave and Sam have been doing with CAUS is definitely a step in the right direction, though I’m unsure how effective it’ll be.

R: I think Cournoyer had been doing a fairly good job. He knows who to talk to and who to work with—like Liberal Advanced Education Critic Dave Taylor—and he’s also been active in pushing student issues at the Legislature and City Hall. To both his and Power’s credit, it looks like the long U-Pass process is slowly drawing to a close, and students will get to vote on it again in the spring, this time with a solid proposal before them. I agree, though, that

with a government as obstinate and distracted with their own leadership concerns as the Conservatives, I think it’s hard for a VPX to be as effective as they may otherwise be. I think that Dave has also been a little bit out of the public eye—the I-Heart-Alberta-Funnyhat signs have been noticeable absent from campus.

M: I guess what we would look for from the SU Executive in the next couple of months is a real push, advocacy-wise—someway of getting students, new students in particular, involved in, and caring about, SU initiatives. I’ve had enough of tuition rallies at which only ten or 15 people show up, and besides, there are more issues on campus than just tuition. I’d really like to see them reach out more than previous executives. Making some sexy “tuition sucks” pins is a good start—I hope they have a lot more ideas in store.

Council

R: For people who decided to pay themselves, Council has shown remarkably little progress on effectively pushing projects, learning the history behind major issues and even just generally taking the Executive to task. When the entire Executive decided to spend money and attend a student government conference out east, for example—something that VPOFs, VPXs and VPSLs have strongly recommended against in previous years—Council didn’t bat an eyelash. Also, a couple councillors have re-raised issues regarding sunset clauses for dedicated fee units and the elimination of Eugene Brody Fund (an SU fee that that uses students’ money for charitable projects). These topics were settled less than two years ago, but only a handful of councillors in the room had bothered to learn the history behind the issues. The other thing that exasperated me about this year’s Council is that while their predecessors left them with plenty of loose ends on the structural side—like uncertainty over the powers of the various committees—they’ve devoted an inordinate amount of time to those issues. It would be nice to see them addressing actual student issues again and figuring out other services and business that could benefit their constituents, because providing these is one area where the SU can really excel.

If councillors could actually find the time to talk to “regular” students, then they might actually discover new services people wish were offered. Just as with any other government, when you take money from people, you need to explain what you’re doing with it, and invite them to disagree with your choices as a government. Where, precisely, this money goes and what our elected representatives do is something that I think needs to be articulated to students better.

M: On the lack of institutional memory, Science Councillor Theresa Chapman recently put forth a motion seeking to hold referendums for dedicated fee recipients every ten years. The fact that this was done without any consultation, and that the issue fell off the map as soon as she was asked to do some actual research, shows that it’s more of an attempt to put together some busy work than to deal with a real situation. If she felt that sunset clauses were something that were important to have for dedicated fees, then she would probably consult with fee recipients before bringing it to Council.

The secret, really, in making student politics interesting isn’t to make them sexy or appealing or anything like that, but to make people aware of the issues and why they matter—to put a bug in each student’s ear. The reason we care about Gomery or the Conservative leadership campaign isn’t because the topics are intrinsically interesting—but because they affect us and we’re told the issues will have an impact on our lives.

self-serve better than no-serve

feature by paul owen
photos by matt frehner

The Gateway dines and whines about the 'Plant's new buffet

I've never been the kind of guy to let the words "all you can eat" slip past my lips without a "fuck yeah" to follow, so when the SU decided that a buffet-style restaurant would be a decent way to try to salvage some money from the dying Powerplant, I was more than happy to check out what sort of sneeze-guarded, lamp-heated fare they had to offer students.

Now, I'm no food expert or anything, but my mom does make the best chocolate chip cookies in the city. If you don't believe that, she'll fight you. To make up for my refusal to eat mayonnaise-based cold salads and vegetarian cuisine, Mike Larocque and Matt Frehner joined me to sample what the Powerplant had on the go.

The decor of the Powerplant remains virtually unchanged this year, with the exception of slightly less seating where the buffet tables now sit. It should also be noted that this new buffet is quite impressive considering the 'Plant only got it under way a couple days before our trial run. The three of us doled out our \$7.95 and grabbed some plates.

The usual concerns when dealing with buffet food apply here. The cutlery was less than clean, the serving utensils had been sitting out all day, the soup had developed a bit of a skin and the food could stand to be a deal hotter or colder, depending on the dish. Also, the current lack of a fountain pop dispenser added to the awkwardness of the meal by forcing patrons to pour themselves a beverage from a jug into a Dixie cup. Now, we're assured that the fountain pop machine is on the way in, so this is one problem that could easily be remedied, especially with the addition of real glassware, just like we used to get.

The food itself put us all through a wide range of emotions. The starter salads—consisting this day of garden, potato and pasta—were for the most part delicious. The lettuce in the garden salad did start to turn, but it was nothing a healthy dose of Caesar dressing couldn't fix. The potato salad earned the coveted title of "good, if unadventurous" from Mike, who worried a little over its yellow colouring before being assured it was merely a side effect of too much mustard. The pasta salad also earned high marks, as Mike re-hit the line for a second helping.

The rolls were poorly packaged, many of them flat and lifeless, but tasted just fine, no different from any other roll. They were also soft and fresh, which is a good sign. The soup, a cream of broccoli and cheese concoction, earned high praise from the entire table. Personally, it was the best-tasting part of my meal.

The side dishes for today were plain white rice and veggie stir-fry. Matt braved the stir-fry, pronouncing it to taste like "limp vegetables in a non-descript soy-like sauce." I enjoyed the rice. It was fluffy and properly

heated, and as far as rice goes, about as good as you'll find.

For heartier sustenance, we were also offered a stew, shepherd's pie, perogies, chicken wings and cabbage rolls. Though the lack of heat and overall time under the heat lamps hurt all of these selections, the shepherd's pie probably takes the cake. Matt once again had the honour, proclaiming it "inoffensive and meaty, with tasty potatoes." I sampled the stew and found it to be nothing better than sub-par. The mystery meat inside surprised me. The award for most dubious dish, however, belonged to the cabbage rolls. Both Mike and Matt hated them with a passion, describing them as "inedible" and "tasting of sweat," so beware.

The wings and the perogies both had potential, but both ended up letting us down. The wings just didn't have enough taste to them. Mike described them as "getting a wing off a turkey at Thanksgiving. They don't taste like bar wings." The perogies tasted alright, though I felt they lacked a little bit of the spice or sharper taste that I like in a perogy, and fell victim to too much time under the heat lamps. They had congealed and become more of a perogy mash than individual perogies.

The desert table featured your usual array of brownies, bars and squares, and most of them were quite satisfying. We would, however warn against the brownie and the coconut cream pie, which had a weird aftertaste.

Overall, the new 'Plant did leave much to be desired, but also showed a lot of potential and room for improvement. Fresher food is undoubtedly a must here, but it's also not a huge stretch from what you used to get when this was a bar-style restaurant. The understaffed service often resulted in cold meals anyways. In that sense, this is a huge step forward; the buffet allows you to eat when you're hungry, not 30 minutes later, and makes for a viable between-class eating option.

The most pressing need is that of a fountain drink machine, but there are a few other things we'd like to see. A more complete salad bar would be a good start, and would also help to increase the vegan choices on the menu, which were slim—though we were told that the 'Plant is dedicated to making sure there are an ample supply of vegetarian and vegan options. We'd also like to see an ice cream bar. Nothing fancy, just some sprinkles, chocolate sauce and soft serve. It's also encouraging to see that the traditional breakfast, easily the best food available at the Powerplant, as well as the best early-morning option on campus, is still going ahead.

Let's hope that, against all odds, this buffet turns the 'Plant around, and infuses the SU with some extra revenue this year. Just stay away from the cabbage rolls.



THE GATEWAY

volume XCVII number 2 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.gateway.ualberta.ca ♦ thursday, 7 september, 2006

University will change your life: Samarasekera



EDMON ROTEA
News Staff

With a great amount of excitement and enthusiasm, first-year students and their orientation leaders gathered at the Hawrelak Park Heritage Amphitheatre Tuesday evening for the annual President's address.

After several faculty cheers, a dance performance by the U of A cheer team, and a personal heartfelt speech from Vice-President (Student Life) Omer Yusuf—who set the precedent for this week's Week of Welcome by spelling out the letters WOW in his facial hair—both the Students' Union and University of Alberta presidents delivered speeches to an attentive and enthusiastic audience.

Sam Power's speech discussed how the University is not only a place of discovery, but also an institution where students should learn to push themselves, and the world around them.

"Challenge the University to deliver the education that you need to contribute to the world. Dare them to deliver the education you need. Challenge the province to deliver the funding and support that you need as a student and challenge them to create a province that every Albertan needs," Power said.

PLEASE SEE ADDRESS ♦ PAGE 4

AVAST YE, FOUL FIRST-YEARS Engineering students and part-time pirates storm through Hawrelak Park leading their new swabbies to the annual President's address. Speeches by VP (Student Life) Omar Yusuf, SU President Sam Power and U of A President Indira "Cap'n" Samarasekera welcomed new students aboard.

MIKE OTTO

'Plant illegally sells tobacco after ban

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

The Students' Union Executive Committee will be taken before the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement (DIE) Board this fall by Audit Committee after a \$64 profit was made from illegal tobacco sales in the Powerplant during May and June.

"When I came to office, SUBMart had already got rid of all of its cigarettes, RATT [had done] the same and so I just naturally assumed everything was taken care of."

**CHRIS CUNNINGHAM,
VP (OPERATIONS AND FINANCE)**

The sales violated an amendment to this year's SU budget principles that came into effect 1 May, which prohibits

the sale of tobacco products in all SU-run businesses such as RATT, the Powerplant and SUBMart.

The amendment was made after students voted 60 per cent in favour of a campus-wide tobacco ban on a non-binding plebiscite question meant to gauge student opinion during SU elections last April. However, because Students' Council has no control over University policy, tobacco products will continue to be sold at privately-owned campus businesses.

But, Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Chris Cunningham had assumed that when the SU executive had its turnover on 1 May, the removal of all tobacco products from SU businesses had already taken place, and he explained that the Powerplant's illegal tobacco sales weren't brought to his attention by the Audit Committee until mid-June, at which time they were stopped.

"When I came to office, SUBMart had already got rid of all of its cigarettes, RATT [had done] the same and so I just naturally assumed everything was taken care of," Cunningham said.

PLEASE SEE TOBACCO ♦ PAGE 2

High hopes for redesigned 'Plant

Buffet meals and new coffeeshop part of plan to salvage bar from depths of deficit

SCOTT LILWALL
Deputy News Editor

Among the new faces and buildings that students at the University of Alberta might see at the beginning of the new school year is a new take on one of the best known buildings on campus: the renovation and redesign of the Powerplant on campus.

The Powerplant, whose restaurant and bar has in recent years become well-known for slow service and budgets in the red, has seen a number of changes aimed at bringing the business back into the black. Last year, the business lost \$173 495. The latest incarnation has the 'Plant split into four distinct areas, a plan that Chris Cunningham, Students' Union Vice-President (Operations and Finance), hopes will foster interest among students.

"We had to address the concerns for students and had to make it a place for students. We just needed to make more space for people, to draw in those that aren't yet coming to the 'Plant," Cunningham said.

The plan has the restaurant, which previously featured table service, turned into a buffet, with students



MIKE OTTO

EMPTY CHAIRS AT EMPTY TABLES Will new 'Plant plan draw in the crowds?

paying a flat rate for all-you-can-eat meals. The bar will continue to operate under its traditional model from Thursday to Sunday; however, the rest of the week, liquor won't be served, and the area will be a leisure space for students.. The third area of the building, previous known as Dewey's Lounge, has been converted

into a coffee shop.

Cunningham explained that part of the reason for the elimination of Dewey's and the lack of bar service was to make the Powerplant a more distinct place, compared to other places on and around campus.

PLEASE SEE PLANT ♦ PAGE 5

ALSO READ: PLANT FEATURE ON PAGE 19

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Getting our Filli-on

He drives a classy spaceship and kills cannibalistic space crazies. Not too bad for a home-grown chap, I say.

A & E, PAGE 21



Not-so-Special Teams

The Bears kicking and punting games aren't exactly where they should be, and Ross Prusakowski knows why.

SPORTS, PAGE 30

The Orientation Express

A first-hand commentary by a fifth-year student



Arriving on campus Monday morning, I was stunned at how things had changed since the previous April. Students had abandoned sweatpants and t-shirts for designer jeans and complicated shoes. Kids wandered aimlessly, but were *smiling*, a far cry from the stressed-out rushing that filled the walkways the previous spring. And people were carrying books, even though class didn't start for three days! It could only mean one thing: Orientation. My goal: stow away any fifth-year cynicism and tag along for a tour of campus, a few peppy speeches, and hopefully some insight into the first-year experience.

Several minutes later, I was standing in the middle of Tory Atrium, clutching my book bag and looking as legitimately confused as the swarm of freshmen passing by me.

Our group wandered in silence for several minutes. Our Orientation Leader was surprisingly calm and yet impressively resilient at withstanding the awkward quiet emanating from our group. It was a far cry from the boisterous Orientation Leader who guided me around campus four years ago, and even the other leaders captaining the group surrounding us. The real observations, however, were being made elsewhere.

"I haven't seen anyone who fits the typical 'nerd' profile yet," announced a blond, sunglassed first-year walking next to me.

"Yeah, me neither," I assured him, glancing around to be sure.

It was the first of admittedly few "high school" comments I heard during orientation, but hilarious nonetheless. Being as you all made it to University, you've just become a member of the most concentrated "nerd" population in Edmonton. And the longer you stay here, I think you'll find the typical "nerds" are the ones who are "graduating."

Coming into Quad, Orientation's most notable feature gradually began to drown out the Beck playing through loud speakers: faculty-themed chants. Stuck between arts students with spirit and engineers proclaiming superiority, memories of my own cheer-chanting days came flooding back.

"Student's will start this cheer in the middle of class, and the profs will just stop teaching and wait because they know it's tradition," one eager Orientation Leader told me years ago.

Well, naïve first-years, here's another lesson in the ways of our fair campus: nobody ever, ever uses these chants outside of Orientation.

University, while full of books and studying, is still several degrees cooler than having students randomly break into clapping verse during the middle of a lecture—or anywhere, for that matter. I have a required first-year course this term, and so help me if I hear a single round of "I've got spirit, yes I do!"

Passing through Quad, our still silent Orientation Leader dutifully lead us to ETLC, where we sat for a presentation on student life. Glancing around, the hall seemed typical of first-year arrivals. A Burberry spotted sea of hot pants and popped collars, it seemed to be a group eagerly waiting to hear where the nearest kegger is being held rather than about wholesome student activities. To the contrary, however, an inspired, *Lost*-themed presentation on campus life was well-received by attentive freshmen, and, if necessarily over the top, the SU did manage to put on a mostly accurate information session on how to conduct oneself at the U of A.

What may have come off as the lamest bits of advice to the students looking for a Hollywood university experience were also the most sound. Volunteering or joining a student group—as uncool as it may sound—will undoubtedly change your university experience. Aside from meeting new people and padding your resumé, trying your hand at campus activities could very well help you discover a future career, something your undergraduate degree in History doesn't necessarily prepare you for.

More importantly, however, is to heed the advice to buckle down and study during your first months at the U of A. If I can pass on one piece of wisdom I've gained during my stay at the U, it's to leave slacking off

the veterans. You're going to be tested differently than you were in high school; not only do you need to know the material, but you have to show you understand it. That means reading on your own and no more last-minute cram sessions in attempt to wing your way through a major exam—at least until you learn how to slack off appropriately. Nothing will ruin your first term at university like getting slapped across the face by a couple of Fs on your first batch of midterms.

But one glaring falsehood seemed to have snuck its way into the presentation. The Powerplant as a great date location? An awesome place for campus socializing? Listen here, newbies, as I can tell you that for quite a while—the whole time I've been at the U of A, in fact—the 'Plant has *not* been a happenin' place to be seen. Cold food and incredibly slow service made the best alternatives RATT or a trip to Whyte Ave. To be fair, however, the SU has planned to revitalize the 'Plant this year with a buffet and coffee shop, so take charge and help make it the swinging place it once was—just don't be surprised if your first visit is a little underwhelming.

Moving on, the rest of the morning consisted of a casual tour and getting ONEcards in the pavilion—pretty tame stuff. It wasn't until that afternoon's safe sex seminar that my interest as a faux first year was once again peaked.

"Cock! Balls!" I blurted as the presenters asked us for some slang terms for our genitals. What I had initially planned to claim was a condescending method to engage students was, as it turned out, pretty fun.

While perhaps necessary to still go over the basics such as unrolling a condom and using proper lubrication, some parts of the presentation were a little out there, nonetheless. Such tidbits as, "Intercourse is just one planet in a vast galaxy of sexual possibilities," and, "You want to make sure you hold onto the base of condom as you pull the penis out of the vagina or wherever it is," marked some of the presentations cheesier and awkward moments, but were still punctuated with good-natured laughter. And, after the initial talk, questions on the birth control shot, Depro provera, and HIV marked a slightly more mature round of information gathering.

Still, after listening to guest speaker Captain Condom of Safesex Airlines and being peppered with numerous stats on pregnancy and STIs, I couldn't help but notice the growing snickers and laughter that was coming from behind me. It wasn't until I noticed the sideways glances when I got up to leave that my constant note-taking throughout the sex-ed presentation—yes, I was even writing during the masturbation and analingus portions—were causing the giggles from behind me.

The rest of Orientation went off without much of note. Bear bells and lanyards adorned most of the eager new students, and, four years on, I still can't name the chancellor of the U of A. Student groups filled the pavilion with enticing offers to learn how to bartend just like Tom Cruise in *Cocktail*, rush for a fraternity, or become a two-bit writer for the campus rag. Four solid years since my Orientation, and it's still pretty much the same.

In the end, having made my way through orientation twice during the course of acquiring one degree was, surprisingly, not that bad. The picture they paint is, perhaps, all roses, and their methods sometimes come off a little too goofy, but for those arriving on campus for the first time, an exciting and even silly greeting might be just what is needed before the actual work of university starts to impress itself on new and old students alike.

Written by Mike Larocque
Photos by James Leung



SOCIAL
INTERCOURSE**Sky Glabush Gallery**

Ximena Rossello Gallery
5-23 September
FAB Building

Two new galleries are being presented by U of A Masters students. The Sky Glabush Gallery provides a plethora of paintings for your viewing pleasure, entitled *Provisional Structures*, while the Rossello Gallery presents a design for a U of A orientation system, which is accessible for users with low vision.

Tupelo Honey

With Drive By Punch, Radioforhelp and The Line Atlantic
Friday, 8 September at 8pm
Dinwoodie Lounge
\$13 Advance at Megatunes, Powerplant or SU Info Booths

Edmonton-based Tupelo Honey headlines this Friday, bringing home the hard-rock style that made them a fan-favorite across Alberta.

Bedouin Soundclash

With Radio Vacana
Sunday, 10 September at 7pm
Dinwoodie Lounge
\$20 Advance at Powerplant or SU Info Booths

Does anybody remember Snow? You know, that guy who sang "Everybody Wants To Be Like You"? Okay, never mind. Still, Bedouin Soundclash is another reggae-influenced band heralding from Ontario and riding up the charts. Fortunately, they're more on the rockin', talented side than on the Canadian-version-of-Vanilla-Ice side.

**Who Killed the Electric Car?**

Directed by Chris Paine
Opens 8 September
Princess Theatre

Directed by Chris Paine, this documentary chronicles the rise and fall of the General Motors' EV1, one of the first commercially available electric cars on the road before they were all recalled in 2003, only to be compacted and dumped in secret locations.

Hear's To Your Health

With Jacques Despres, featuring members of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra
Monday, 11 September at 5pm
Bernard Snell Auditorium, Walter Mackenzie Health Sciences Center
Free and open to the public

U of A faculty member Jacques Despres joins three members of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra to perform an all-Mozart concert. So, if all the rock shows are a little too wild for you, or you want to prove to a date that you're cultured, enjoy a night of classical music that doesn't cut into your lunchmeat fund, either.

JOHN KMECH
A&E Godfather

A Fillion and one reasons

The *Gateway* caught up with *Serenity* star Nathan Fillion when he returned home for the Fringe Festival, and we got the scoop on why Edmonton—and the U of A—are the best places to be

MEGHAN POTKINS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

"Put this in your article: I dropped school and was four months away from graduating. Put a bug in the ear of the administration saying that I sure would like my degree."

Nathan Fillion once wanted to be a teacher. Then he wanted to be an actor. Then, his starring role as Captain Malcolm Reynolds in the short-lived but critically acclaimed series *Firefly*, which was followed up on the big screen with last fall's *Serenity*, ensured Fillion's success—at least in the acting respect. But, despite all of his big-screen accomplishments, Fillion still has another goal he hasn't yet conquered: he wants his teaching degree from the University of Alberta.

"I'm not going to go teach or anything, but they could give me an honorary degree of some kind," Fillion laughs. "I was going to be a high school teacher. I was doing a drama major and an art minor."

Four months before he was set to graduate, Fillion went to New York to audition for the soap *One Life to Live*, leaving his teaching practicum incomplete. He was just shy of completing his requirements for his Bachelor of Education.

"[The University Administration] was really cool," Fillion recalls when he approached faculty and administration to ask permission for a leave of absence. "I asked, 'Can I put a hold on my spot? I'm going to New York to try this soap opera, but it might not pan out and I might be coming back and picking up where I left off.' They said, 'Yeah, go ahead, knock yourself out,' and they held my spot ... they were very cool to me."

As it turns out, things ended up just dandy for Fillion on *One Life*, and before long, he was auditioning in Los Angeles, landing plump roles on television programs like *Two Guys, a Girl and a Pizza Place*, Joss Whedon's *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and later on, of course, the lead in another Whedon project, *Firefly*.

Despite his success in LA, though, Fillion hasn't left Edmonton entirely behind him. Since moving to the US, Fillion has returned several times to his hometown in order to join the cast of the improvised soap opera *Die-Nasty*, a hobby he'd spent a good chunk of time on during University years, and this past August, he came back, once again, for the 25th anniversary of the Fringe theatre festival.

"I'm very happy to be back doing improv, doing *Die-Nasty*. Getting back up there with those guys was very, very important to me," Fillion says. "They're always so welcoming and supportive, and they're always just so willing to embrace me whenever I come home. It makes me feel great."

In recent years, Fillion has been one of several homegrown Edmonton improvisers/performers to make the trek south to North America's entertainment Mecca. Another fame-gaining performer hailing from our fair city is Rapid Fire Alumni Josh Dean, better known for his work on the Fox sitcom *Free Ride*. And, aside from having similar roots, Fillion also considers Dean to be a close friend.

"We hang out all the time," Fillion says. "[Right now], he's house-sitting for me and feeding my cat."

While Fillion may have fellow Canadians like Dean to keep him company, he admits that there are some things about Canada that he misses. Fillion describes how surprised Americans are at what he considers the common courtesy all Canadians extend to strangers.

"If I've got a giant shopping cart full of groceries and someone comes behind me with only three items and I let them go ahead rather than wait for me, people are so taken aback. It makes me feel great, but it also kind of disheartens me to know

that someone would be so taken aback when you just [show] common courtesy," Fillion explains. "Canadians aren't afraid to be kind. They're not afraid to be polite. They're not offended by everything. It just seems to be more relaxed and easygoing."

Still, Fillion will probably remain in LA for the time being while he pursues new projects. He has just completed work on an independent film called *Waitress* with actress Keri Russell, and *White Noise: The Light*, which will be released sometime in January.

Although Fillion enjoys the challenge of taking on new roles, he hasn't forgotten the project that first introduced him to wider audiences, and most importantly, he hasn't forgotten where he got his start. With a few films under his belt and no end to acting in sight, Fillion will always find the time to return home to Edmonton at least twice a year, whether it means reacquainting himself with the Fringe stage, or dropping in to local classrooms to speak about his achievements.

"My best friend from school teaches [in Edmonton]. I go talk to his drama classes all the time when I come back during the school year. My family brings me back. This is where I'm from."



Hollywood a land bordering truth and fiction

Hollywoodland

Directed By Allen Coulter
Starring Adrien Brody, Diane Lane,
Ben Affleck and Bob Hoskins
Opens 8 September
Empire Theatres

EDMON ROTEA
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Hollywood loves mysteries and conspiracy theories—especially when a suicide or murder concerns one of its celebrities. And when it comes to the plot of *Hollywoodland*, that's what it's all about: the death of a Hollywood celebrity during the Golden Age of filmmaking.

While the film concerns the events leading up to the 1959 suicide death of George Reeves (Ben Affleck), an actor famous for his iconic television portrayal of Superman during the 1950s, the film's interesting plot combines two independent, yet intertwining, narratives.

The first narrative takes place in the

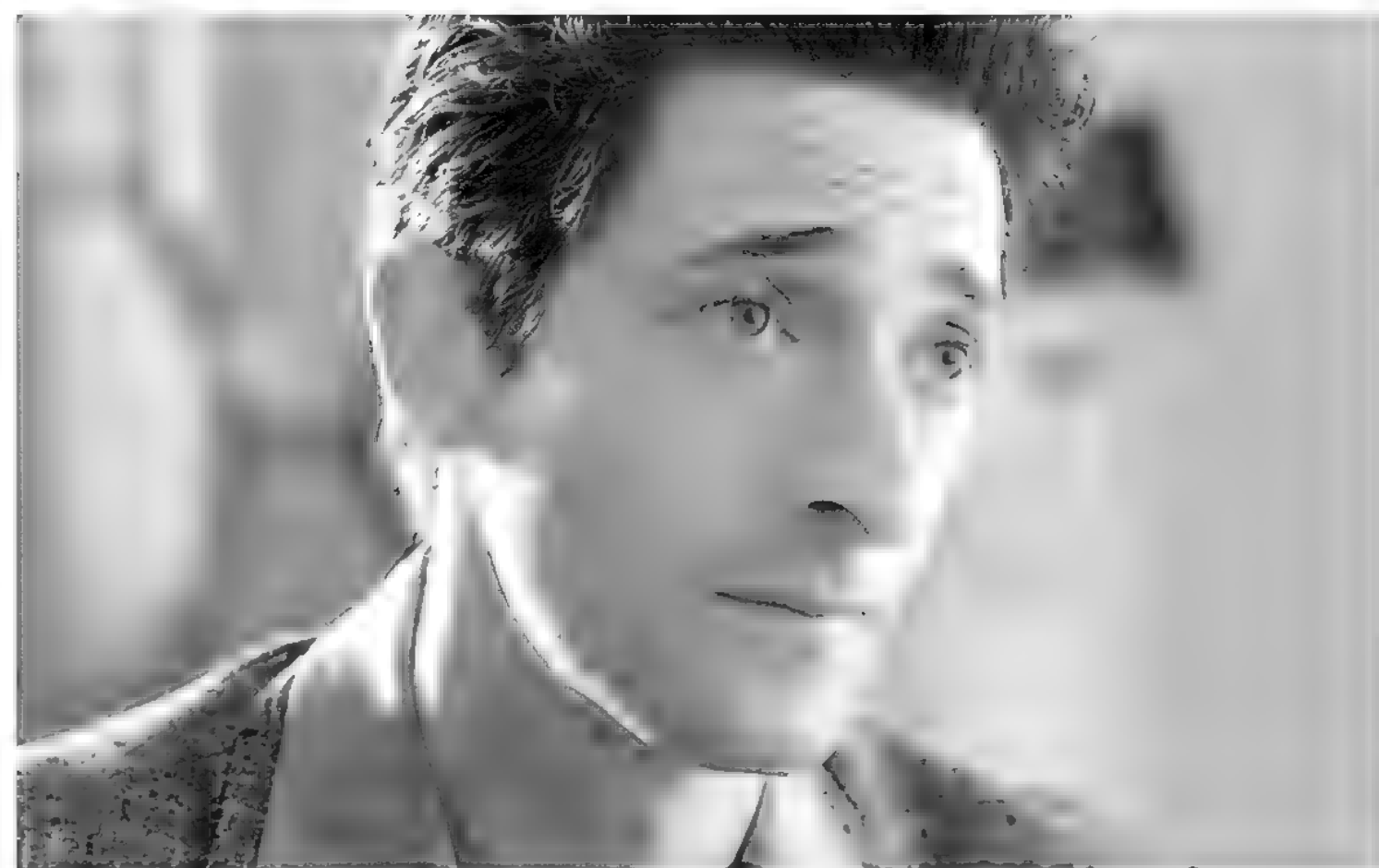
present tense shortly after Reeves' death, and the audience is introduced to Louis Simo (Adrien Brody), a private investigator. Simo is your typical film-noir private investigator: he's a former detective, he's broke, he's divorced, yet he has a strong appetite for the truth—and he'll do just about anything to discover it. While investigating a run-of-the-mill case involving suspected marital infidelity, Simo entangles himself in the suicide case of Reeves. Simo does this as a means of not only gaining attention and media publicity, but also to earn a paycheck from Reeves' bereaved mother who believes that his son would never kill himself.

Despite the evidence and the police reports, Simo also believes that Reeves didn't commit suicide. However, the questions of who, how and why Reeves was murdered opens up a Pandora's box of possibilities, and eventually entices Simo to investigate further. Combined with a list of potential suspects, shadowy figures and several versions con-

cerning Reeves' death, and you've got yourself a modern-day, film-noir style historical drama with a few twists.

The other interesting narrative concerns the life of George Reeves himself, which spans ten years of his personal life. While the story begins with his death, audiences get to learn more about the intimate details of the legendary figure, right from his early days as a struggling actor who later woos Toni Mannix (Diane Lane)—the wife of a powerful Hollywood film executive Eddie Mannix (Bob Hoskins)—to his final days as a struggling, washed-up actor whose only other job offer is a professional wrestling gig.

Both narratives are intelligently woven together, using a crime scene investigation style to tell the story of two Hollywoods: the glamorous Hollywood portrayed on the silver screen, and the dark and tragic Hollywood with its shady figures and unfortunate histories. Simo continually struggles to find the truth in a town concerned with fiction, while the film



momentarily switches back and forth to the true story of Reeves' personal life. Affleck convincingly portrays Reeves, who, by proxy, also does a convincing portrayal of the famous iconic superhero. Also worth mentioning is the performance delivered by Brody as the fame-seeking—yet truth-finding—private investigator.

The strong performances are com-

plimented by the film's tight script and characterizations. Reeves is portrayed as the man of steel, and audiences soon discover his human vulnerabilities and weaknesses, characteristics that are shared by Simo's character.

Ultimately, *Hollywoodland* is a satisfying "whodunit" thriller that will keep moviegoers guessing until the very end—and, perhaps, for days later.

GATEWAY A&E

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writing for Gateway A&E, but
she doesn't know how. Really,
it's quite simple: meetings are
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social. You don't want to be
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run to the washroom and
encounter a troll, now, do you?



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Phantom sings success

Harold Prince's production of *The Phantom of the Opera* draws audiences into its dark, yet saccharine lair, reclaiming every last theatre-loving heart

The Phantom of the Opera

Directed by Harold Prince
Starring John Cudia, Jennifer Hope Wills and Adam Monley
Runs until 24 September
Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium

AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Like *The Sound of Music* or *Gone With The Wind*, *The Phantom of the Opera* is just one of the many classics we're obliged to see at some point in our lives—and for good reason. These simple, timeless stories, wrapped in elegant ribbons of love and tribulation, cast endless drifts of personal associations within our minds, and the elaborate productions, which frame the talents of actors and musicians alike, only further enhance our appreciation for the arts.

The Phantom of the Opera, though, is different from all other classics—and from all other operas, for that matter. It's the longest running show in Broadway history; it has featured such voices as Sarah Brightman; and, for some reason, it still manages to attract audiences to the sight of a crashing chandelier and a half-masked man, despite its universally known plot. Whether you're a veteran of the show, or a first-time *Phantom*-goer, let it be known that this year's production of *Phantom*—directed by 20-time Tony Award winner Harold Prince—simply adds another glittering link on the flowing chain of exceptional performances.

The plot centers on the character of

Christine Daaé (Jennifer Hope Wills, who has recently been replaced with Marni Rabb), and her wish to become a singer. One day, after watching a rehearsal, two new opera house managers, Monsieurs André and Firmin (DC Anderson and Bruce Winant), discover Daaé's talent, and everyone—including the rest of the cast girls present—wonder how she developed her voice.

A body is hung, a chandelier crashes from the roof and fire shoots from the Phantom's walking stick. Throughout the entire performance, incredible events wait in the glittering darkness, keeping eyes mesmerized on the fluttering characters onstage.

Her flair for song remains a mystery until we find out the Opera Phantom (John Cudia) has been the one teaching her. From there, the story illustrates Christine's successes as an opera singer, and envelops itself in an odd love triangle between the illusive Phantom and long-time friend Raoul (Adam Monley).

A body is hung, a chandelier crashes from the roof and fire shoots from the Phantom's walking stick. Throughout the entire performance, incredible events wait in the glittering darkness, keeping eyes mesmerized on the fluttering characters onstage. The action and special effects are enough to engross audience members into the Phantom's secret, yet incredibly sad, world. Everything from the costumes to the lighting bring an emotive effect that parallels the ups and downs of the harrowing story.

The most beautifully shocking aspect of *The Phantom of the Opera*, though, is the remarkable voices projected from each and every character, especially Christine. Sure, at first, it's disappointing to know that Sarah Brightman—a former Christine, back in the day—won't be belting out "Think Of Me" or "The Phantom of the Opera," but really, Wills could easily replace all of Brightman's grace. Wills is flawless, as are Cudia and Monley, the two men who act as perfect counterparts to her amazing voice. All of the main characters emit such accomplished senses of passion, confidence and poise that one can barely soak it all up. They just make it look so easy.

With all of the talent, ornamentation and life put into the performance, there's a reason why *The Phantom of the Opera* has been around so long. The bar had been high-set a long time ago, and with each new performance, that measuring stick just keeps getting higher, allowing the show to dazzle and entice even more when the curtain goes up.

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Dearly Beloved admires positivity, good looks

Dearly Beloved

With AIDE-DE-CAMP and The Poplars
Tuesday, 12 September at 9pm
Sidetrack Café

ELIZABETH VAIL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

It's hard to believe, but the joy in Dearly Beloved's cheerfully rugged debut album, *You are the Jaguar*, came out of a dark place in bassist Rob Higgins' life. On 14 May, the former Change of Heart band member lost his father to a long battle with cancer. However, there was a silver lining to the tragedy: a number of punk-rock friendships were ultimately born out of the situation.

"During that time, I was spending a lot of time with [my father]," Higgins explains. "And that's when I made the album, in the evenings after being with him in the hospital. The album is very much framed by that experience, and as difficult as it was, it was really good for me to make the album because it was therapeutic for me; it was a place to put my energy, everyday."

"... I don't mean to sound conceited, because I'm not that type of person, but I saw us on TV and was like, 'Damn, we are good looking!'"

ROB HIGGINS

Recognizing his pain, a group of friends, including Niva Chow (vocalist), Damon Richardson (guitarist), Alex O'Rielly (drummer) and John Pogue (guitarist), joined together to help create the ultimate kind of musical catharsis.

"Everybody came together to make this record, and it was a generosity of spirit on their part because they knew

I was hurting, they knew I needed to make this record, and they knew I needed some help. I didn't want to do it all myself—that was an option at one point," Higgins admits. "I was just going to play all the instruments and do everything myself, [but] I decided it was nicer to have some friends around."

While it might seem odd to outsiders that a guy going through such a painful time in his life would come out with such an upbeat album, Higgins sees it as only natural. He made a decision when his father was sick that he wasn't going to "get fucked up over it." Instead, he vowed to become a positive contributor to the whole situation. No depressing music was going to come out of Higgins. "I didn't want to make a mopey, 'Oh, woe is me' album," he says. "I wanted to make a reverent shake-yer-ass album that celebrates life rather than the concept of death."

Indeed, the whole album ended up becoming a very personal project, but in the end, Higgins believes it's evolved into something much more universal. "I created Dearly Beloved as a vehicle for myself to make records," he reveals. "Now we're a band of people that play a ferocious 40-minute set that rips your face off!"

And when Dearly Beloved takes the stage at the Sidetrack on 12 September, you can expect just that. They'll be there with bells on—punk-rock bells, to be specific.

"Well, we look hot, we look so hot," Higgins says. "We were watching ourselves on MTV yesterday, and I don't mean to sound conceited, because I'm not that type of person, but I saw us on TV and was like, 'Damn, we are good looking! Look how good we look!'"

"When we play shows, we don't just come out there with T-shirts and jeans on. We dress to show respect for where Dearly Beloved came from because ... the name implies a wedding or a funeral or something formal, right? And when Dearly Beloved performs, we dress appropriately."



Dearly Beloved

You Are The Jaguar
Warner Records
www.dearlybeloved.ca

ELIZABETH VAIL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

With their debut album, *You Are the Jaguar*, Canadian punk group Dearly Beloved—comprised of five musicians borrowed from several other bands—serves up ten songs that provide ideal examples of bombastic gaiety. Loud, fast and happy, every track screeches and wails a rebel sound that's tempered by a cheerful and enthusiastic delivery by lead singer Rob Higgins. This odd mixture of happy-punk is pitch-perfect runs right through the album, but exhibits its potential in the first galloping song, "The Ride."

A cutesy back-and-forth between male vocals and the female backup singers is used to establish a fresh,

balanced fashion, but although it fits in with some of the rougher numbers like "The Ride," gleeful stomp "Manifesto" and mellower soft-rock "The Butler Routine," when wrongly used, it can make a song sound like a particularly spunky jingle for Old Navy (the ditty "Rugged CasualSport" could sell many pairs of khakis).

Generally, though, there's consistent sound and energy throughout the album that makes for some entertaining listening. While rock is oftentimes pigeonholed as an angry, dissatisfied medium, it's a refreshing change to see that frenetic energy directed towards a more positive sound.

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Peeling back layers of beauty

A New Kind of Beauty

Showing: 2-30 September
Opening Reception: 7 September from 5-8pm
The Gallery at Milner, Stanley A Milner Library

EDMON ROTEA
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Next to diamonds and pet canines, flowers can be a girl's best friend—especially for Alexis Robb, an aspiring fourth-year Bachelor of Fine Arts student who will be hosting her first solo photography exhibit, *A New Kind of Beauty*.

To the casual observer, her work may, at first, appear to be a showcase of canvas-mounted photographs featuring images of different types of flowers. However, the more observant spectators will discover images of flowers ripe with both visual and social meaning—meanings that relate both to the artist's own personal family history and to the everyday citizen in an increasingly multicultural society.

"People have had this aesthetic response to the images themselves, and that's important to me. I think that, sometimes, we invest too much meaning in things, and sometimes, it's just the simple colours that can have more meaning than even some of the deeper stuff," explains Robb, whose works consist of a composite of floral and botanical images. The photographic effect is achieved by overlaying images of various flower types together to form a single, ambiguous and colourful



PHILLIP HOFFMAN

A BED OF ROSELIPS Alexis Robb combines flower photographs in her exhibit.

floral image of a new and unique type of flower—one that may never exist in nature, but perhaps only in her photographic showcase.

Robb's floral creations also include a variety of names, from a photo of a "Chrysanthisy" (a combination of chrysanthemum and daisy) to a "Tulidago" (a tulip and a yellow solidago flower).

Her work is also reflective of her own personal life, including her family history and upbringing as a citizen in an increasingly multi-ethnic Canadian society.

"When I was combining two different flowers, it felt like I was combining two different ethnic groups," says Robb, whose own family has a history of multi-racial unions. "If people do think about the deeper meanings contained within these images, they don't necessarily see two separate flowers—they see one new flower that's so

original and has a new meaning of its own that it's not necessarily definable, but it's beautiful.

"My nephew is from a Chinese and Caucasian background. You'd see this little boy and you wouldn't know what cultural background he was from. But you wouldn't be able to say things like, 'Oh, these traits or features are from this culture and that culture'—you wouldn't be able to necessarily see that. There's ambiguity."

Yet Robb's enthusiasm for her inaugural exhibit is not without trepidation. "I'm quite a sensitive person—when I put my work out to others, it's like putting a little bit of myself out there."

Despite her concern, the entire event—whether its making press packages or dealing with the media and public—has been a journey for Robb.

"It really feels like I've learned so much. It's been such a rich experience for me," Robb says.

The Protector's all action, no plot

New Tony Jaa film may tell a thin story, but the martial arts sure are meaty

The Protector

Directed by Prachya Pinkaew
Starring Tony Jaa, Petchai Wongkamlao
Opens 8 September
Empire Theatres

JOHN KMECH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Martial arts movies have never been renowned for harboring deep, thought-provoking structures: the plot's generally derivative and poorly written, the acting wooden and the dialogue ridiculous. *The Protector*, like Tony Jaa's breakout hit *Ong Bak* and thousands of martial arts movies before it, is no different.

The inconsequential plot can be explained in a single sentence. Kham (Tony Jaa) travels from Thailand to Australia to retrieve his sacred pet elephant from a corrupt international exotic food cartel. End. Now that that's over with, we can get to the part that everyone cares about, the action, which can only be described as completely insane.

Like *Ong Bak*, Jaa's Muay Thai-based fight scenes and acrobatics take precedence over what would otherwise be a pretty shitty movie. In that respect, the action in *Ong Bak* seems mundane compared to *The Protector*. Jaa kicks so much ass in the film, using such inventive ways, that you are continually contemplating where his next victim will come from and how far they'll be placed into the world of hurt.

The fight scenes are incredibly realistic, and they're entertaining as hell. Notable scenes—although every battle and chase is an adrenaline tsunami—include an artistic combat

with capoeira master Lateef Crowder, a scene where the camera follows Kham as he works his way up several floors of a restaurant, and, of course, the final battle. What ultimately makes this movie worth seeing, though (since the premise is almost the same as *Ong Bak*), is Jaa's lack of restraint and mercy. Beat-downs are long, groan-inducing and feature great cinematography. By the end, Kham's methods are so intense that everyone in the theater is either laughing or gasping at the brutality. I won't ruin the last 20 minutes, but I will say that your limbs will ache.

Beat-downs are long, groan-inducing and feature great cinematography. By the end, Kham's methods are so intense that everyone in the theatre is either laughing or gasping at the brutality. I won't ruin the last 20 minutes, but I will say that your limbs will ache.

The Protector was released last year in Asia as *Tom Yum Goong*. Having seen an English-subtitled version earlier in the year, I can say that there were a number of changes made, some good, some bad. The plot was

originally completely incoherent, so several scenes were added, along with some exposition about Thai culture, to explain to Western audiences why anyone would travel so far for an elephant.

Unfortunately, what was also added to increase appeal with American audiences was dubbing and horrible slo-mo music. All of the fights, which previously had Thai instrumentals or nothing in the background, were replaced with generic hard rock or hip-hop. This seems to have the opposite effect of its intent, making the fighting less intense by covering the agonizing sound effects. Also, I'm not sure why they would name it *The Protector*, since Jackie Chan also has a movie with the same title.

There's also a healthy dose of unintentional humour in the film, as is standard with many foreign flicks. Some Timberlake-esque music is added to an already ludicrous hot tub scene with Thai girls dancing for rotund businessmen. For more laughs, though, watch for a hilariously cheap CGI scene that should have been cut; it looks like it was produced by a starving animation student for five dollars in 1994.

However, the problems with this movie are more frustrations than actual grievances. When it comes down to what matters (the action), *The Protector* delivers in droves, more than any movie recently released. As Dan Kaszor wisely predicted two years ago in his *Ong Bak* review, it won't be long before Tony Jaa is playing second banana to Chris Tucker, as he has ironically now been approached to be in *Rush Hour 3*. Hurry to see him now before Hollywood corrupts another promising martial artist.

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A passive-aggressive attack

Mothra may be laid-back about most things, but they're set on promoting female involvement in heavy music—even Godzilla doesn't stand a chance

Mothra

With A Javelin Reign, Better Living, Exit This Side and Snic
Saturday, 9 September at 8pm
Velvet Underground

AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Seeing a girl in an all-male, hardcore band isn't all that common. Neither is the well-known *Godzilla* monster, Mothra, for that matter. Luckily, though, metal-loving females and unruly beasts have finally come together to form a pleasant union, all through the medium of music.

For BC-based group Mothra, there's nothing odd about having a female screemo vocalist around, just as there's nothing weird about adopting a Japanese creature as your moniker. Worrying about little things like that isn't in the trio's mandate; instead, making music until someone stops them seems to be more down their path of thinking.

"[The moniker Mothra] is just something we thought sounded really cool," says vocalist and synth player Karla Miller. "We found other bands from Poland and Japan and stuff that had the same name, and we like it. Mothra is the moth beast that fights Godzilla—that fights for good.

"We haven't had any [copyright issues] at this point, but I guess we'll see what happens," Miller continues. "We haven't encountered any problems from Sony Pictures or whoever owns the rights to Godzilla. We get that question a lot, people asking if we've been in any lawsuits or anything, but we're like, 'Hmm, not yet.'

I guess we'll cross that bridge when we come to it."

Not about to sit back and take it easy, Mothra didn't waste any time putting out their first album—in fact, when the band recorded, they had been together for only two months. Gaining momentum and energy from being in the present, and not from dwelling on anything for too long, Mothra managed to fuel their musical passions, and by taking different approaches to their songwriting via complex time signatures and lengthy songs, they've separated themselves from the typical radio structure of bands like Alexisonfire.

"Judging from the turnout at shows, specifically all-ages shows, there are more and more girls coming out to see hardcore bands, which is awesome, and I think it would be really cool if they took it upon themselves to start bands that played heavy music."

KARLA MILLER

According to Miller, a University of Alberta graduate in Honors Psychology, growing up listening to

punk rock influenced her decision to be a part of the group, but it was only recently that she became more exposed to the heavier stuff, mainly thanks to her drummer husband Al. Still, though, it's not everyday that you encounter females doing something other than singing in a baby voice while strumming lightly on an acoustic guitar.

"I think it's rare, I guess, but there are a lot of girls that like heavier music," Miller says. "I haven't really come across many bands that are heavy and have girls in them, but we've played with a couple. I don't really think about it, to be honest; it doesn't really phase me. I don't think it has any limitations."

Holding back isn't Miller's strong point, but from her perspective, changing the field of music for women who are genuinely into hardcore music for the sake of music—not for the moshing or sense of rebelliousness—is something she hopes to accomplish with all of Mothra's shows, and, of course, with their record.

"I think, because it has that aggressive edge to it, it's almost natural that they wouldn't be into it," Miller says. "I've only come into it recently, because I've been exposed to it more, but it wasn't something that I was naturally into.

"Judging from the turnout at shows, specifically all-ages shows, there are more and more girls coming out to see hardcore bands, which is awesome, and I think it would be really cool if they took it upon themselves to start bands that played heavy music."

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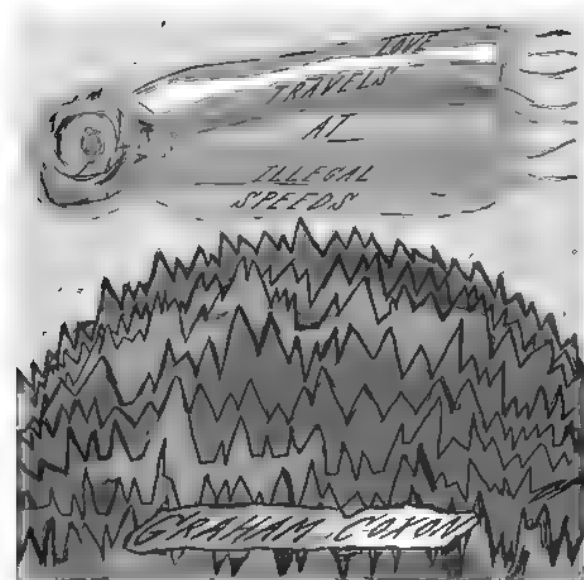
MATT FREHNER
Editor-in-Chief

Hey, J5, want some *Feedback*? Stop pretending to be summery, California rappers and go back to writing lyrics that are interesting. Jurassic 5's latest release holds interest momentarily, but few tracks warrant more than one listen. There are shadows of early J5 in the unconventional (with regards to rap, at least) background constructions, but most of the lyrics have become typical pop-rap fair—in other words, they're not offensive, but they unfortunately lack the playfulness of their first major release, *Quality Control*, or the profundity of *Powers in Numbers*.

The overarching beats are often repetitive and dull, something you would expect to be spun by an unen-

thused DJ at the Funky Buddha as the sober few awkwardly stand next to the dance floor. Jurassic 5 seems to be trying to maintain their old flavour, but at the same time, they're attempting to appeal to a general club full of pre-teen sentiment.

The highlight of this mediocre album is the first track, which dupes you into thinking that the rest is worth listening to. The real icing on this inedible cake, though, is a track featuring Dave Matthews Band, a nostalgic, summery pile of goop that's reminiscent of Len's "Steal My Sunshine" rather than J5's classic hit, "Concrete Schoolyard." This is the kind of banal rap that makes one yearn for the days of the Hot Boys or Kris Kross.



Graham Coxon

Love Travels At Illegal Speeds
Parlophone
www.grahamcoxon.uk

TARA STIEGLITZ
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Love Travels At Illegal Speeds is the most recent solo album by former Blur guitarist Graham Coxon. By nature, he's a multi-tasker: not only did Coxon write and perform all thirteen songs on the CD, but he designed the cover art as well. Coxon, undoubtedly, seems to have a few talents hidden up his sleeve, but when it comes to recording his own music without the help of others, all he ends up with is a conglomerate of songs fairly typical of indie rock—lots guitar and lots of drums, with not much else to add variation to the alternating fast and slow paces that are lightly sprinkled with melancholy overtones.

Love Travels At Illegal Speeds is certainly not a daring album, and there's nothing unique or edgy about it. In fact, one could easily mistake a Graham Coxon song for any number of tunes that reverberate in a Beatles-like manner. Coxon's style also closely resembles early material by the Kinks, as demonstrated by his laid-back singing style.

As a whole, though, the album is fairly cohesive; much of it features a consistent focus, that is, one leaning towards love. Depth and uniqueness are definitely sacrificed for silkiness, but in the end, *Love Travels At Illegal Speeds* ends up being a smooth and comfortable musical ride.



Nizlopi

Half These Songs Are About You
FDM Records
www.nizlopi.com

RENATO PAGNANI
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Capturing the "is"-ness (a phrase which can be attributed to the rapper Common rather than the actor Owen Wilson) of a live performance is a feat of which few artists are capable. Edmonton hipsters Shout Out Out Out found this out on their recent debut, where the energy of their legendary live shows didn't fully translate to wax. However, Shout Out aren't alone with their problem: Luke Concannon and John Parker—together known as Nizlopi—suffer from this same inability.

When the duo appeared on MuchMusic and performed their minor hit "JCB Song," it found poignancy in Concannon's wavering vocals and

Parker's beat-boxing. Really, "JCB Song" isn't spectacular by any means—but beat-boxing on what is essentially a nerdy, albeit well-intentioned, pop song? That's atypical, to say the very least, and it's just too bad that this beat-boxing appears nowhere on *Half These Songs Are About You...*, because it could have added some much-needed texture to the duo's by-the-numbers songs.

And it wouldn't hurt if Concannon could actually sing—well, maybe he can, but he hides behind the same melodies all record long, and so by the time you get to the album-closer "Worry," you begin to do just that, thinking you've already heard the song before. Eleven times before.



Hellogoodbye

Zombies! Aliens! Vampires!
Dinosaurs!
EMI Music Canada
www.hellogoodbye.net

ELIZABETH VAIL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

As suggested by the whimsical album title, the latest CD from electronic group Hellogoodbye is as gleeful, infectious and entertaining. Even though prehistoric lizards, extraterrestrials and the undead barely figure into the actual songs, the fantastical numbers are catchy, bouncy and excellently arranged, framing the plethora of wispy lyrics that can sound a little too cute at times, but are easily ignored.

Despite the fact that they rest nicely within the category of electronica, Hellogoodbye's better songs are the ones that make use of at least some sort of physical instrument and natural vocals. Beeping, processed songs like "All Of Your Love," "Touchdown

Turnaround" and "All Time Lows" are creative in their own right, and illustrate how lead singer Forrest Kline's dreamy voice is better suited when it's not sent through the techno-robot wringer.

The musical mixture of man and machine is best displayed in delightful bubblegum love songs like "Baby, It's Fact," "Oh, It Is Love," "Homewrecker" (a thumping rock-infused track) and "I Saw It On Your Keyboard." In fact, the title of Hellogoodbye's album is so completely misleading: rather than being a Gothic favorite, *Zombies! Aliens! Vampires! Dinosaurs!* would be, undoubtedly, an excellent addition to the soundtrack of a starry-eyed romantic's life.

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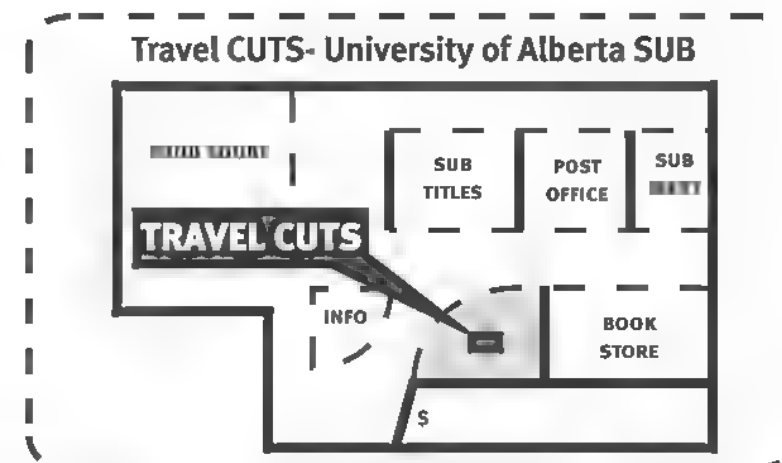
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Nationals-hosting Bears open season against provincial rivals

A more experienced Golden Bears hopes to open the season on the right foot, as they host Lethbridge and Calgary this weekend

VERONICA DOLEMAN
Sports Writer

The Bears soccer team has a lot to look forward to this season. As hosts of the CIS National Championships, they have an automatic spot in the playoffs, and, with the return of many fifth-year players, last season's inexperienced team has evolved into one that's capable of winning the tournament. And, they'll take their first steps towards that this weekend, with games against the Lethbridge Pronghorns and Calgary Dinos.

"Both [Lethbridge and Calgary] are improving programs—they're always competitive. It's going to be a case of: can we get our act together and play with some conviction—particularly in an attacking sense—and get the results against two tough teams," said Bears head coach Len Vickery, whose team was bolstered with the return of Mike Kennedy and Junior Castrillon, both of whom were on the Bears team that won nationals in 2003. Castrillon scored the winning goal.

"Tryouts went very well. We spent a lot of time this year recruiting, and we're particularly pleased that a number of players who were lost to injury or took a year off because they had graduated are now returning," Vickery said. "It's encouraging

we've got these experienced players returning, but just as encouraging is the development of a good group of third- and fourth-year players."

The Bears finished 6-4-2 in the 2005 season, but started very slowly, a development Vickery attributed to a lack of experience. The Bears only had one fifth-year player last season, and he went down to injury early in the year. But they rebounded well, defeating UBC and Trinity Western towards the end of the season—the gold and bronze medalists at nationals, respectively—and finishing third in the Canada West conference.

"It's encouraging we've got these experienced players returning."

**LEN VICKERY
BEARS HEAD COACH**

A change of policy has made it so the team that holds first place at the end of the season will host the Canada West playoffs, which has the Bears looking forward in hopes of hosting two straight weeks of playoffs. Vickery admitted that there were many players

at tryouts who talked of playing for a national championship this season.

"I think the highlight of the season will probably be coming in my first year and playing at the actual national championships," said first-year Bear Harman Braich, a member of the youth national squad. "Hopefully I can be a big presence in the back and step up to the level of play on the team."

Despite the home-field advantage, the Bears will still need to get past TWU and UBC, the two teams that finished ahead of them the previous season.

"[Having the Nationals on Bears' turf] is definitely an advantage; it's still going to be a difficult tournament being that there's going to be an extra west-coast team involved because we get the bye," Kennedy said.

Along with reigning CW MVP Mark Korthius, both Kennedy and Castrillon will be counted on to provide a leading role on the pitch.

"[I hope to] provide some leadership; try to help out as much as I can with the younger guys—hopefully motivate the older guys also. It's mostly a team goal I have for this season," Castrillon said.

The Bears hit the field against Lethbridge at 4:15pm on Friday and return to it to take on Calgary at 2:15pm on Sunday. Both games go at Foote Field.



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colophon

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Lack of tobacco sales hurts SU finances: Cunningham

TOBACCO • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After hearing of the illegal cigarette sales, Steve Kirkham, who sat on Students' Council last year as a science councillor, and is adamantly in favor of the ban, sent a letter to Cunningham. In the letter, he explained his disappointment in learning that the Powerplant had been ignoring the budget principles, and has asked that the money be donated towards the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission's memorial trust fund.

However, while Cunningham doesn't condone the Powerplant going against the budget principles, he pointed out that this year's financial losses as a result of the ban far exceed the total illegal profit made.

"We only made \$64 ... it wasn't a lot [of money] and currently we're losing \$38 000 in profit because of the ban," Cunningham said.

"That's a fair chunk of money that we're losing—that's a service. I mean, Safewalk's operating budget is around \$40 000," Cunningham added. "And who's going to benefit? It's not going to prevent anybody from smoking."

But, according to Audit Committee Chairwoman Theresa Chapman, the ban had more to do with an ethical choice of deciding where SU money came from rather than trying to stop students from smoking.

"I think the main thing is there's this moral idea that was very much

championed by Kirkham and a few others that, morally, we shouldn't be selling tobacco—we shouldn't be deriving our profit from a product that kills students," she said.

Kirkham explained his moral reasoning, comparing selling tobacco products to promoting gambling on campus.

"The same argument could be made for the reason that we don't have VLTs in the Powerplant and RATT to fund student services," Kirkham said.

"I think that a loss of \$38 000 is an acceptable loss for the eventual gain we'll get from [the ban]," Kirkham added.

But, along with the estimated financial losses from tobacco sales, the SU expected to lose out on sales that are incidental to selling tobacco products.

"We'll also lose money from collateral costs because [when] someone comes in they buy tobacco and they also buy a stick of gum," Chapman said. "It was estimated at around \$15 000 for the year on collateral costs."

SUBMart has replaced cigarette sales with various other items, such as phone cards and Tylenol, to offset the added losses while the Powerplant and RATT have yet to find a substitute.

Chapman, though supportive of students' vote for a campus-wide tobacco ban, noted that as long as University



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: JENNY FROGNER

GOING UP IN SMOKE Some argue the tobacco ban is going to drain SU coffers.

policy allows tobacco sales on campus, only SU businesses will suffer from financial losses.

"People are going to not buy stuff in the Students' Union Building because they can't get cigarettes here—they're going to go to HUB and buy cigarettes there," Chapman said.

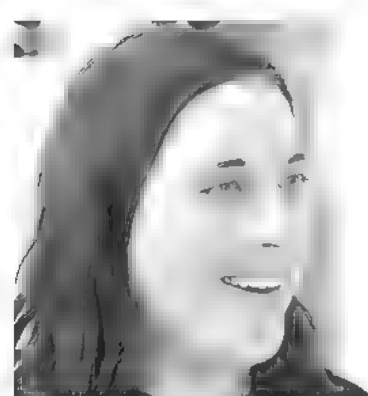
But, while the current budget principles are set until the end of April, Council could theoretically amend the budget for next year to reintroduce the sale of tobacco products.

"This year's setting a standard, but that standard can be changed," Chapman said.

STREETERS

Wednesday, 6 September marked the start of classes and the return of U of A students to campus.

What was the best/worst part of your first day back?



Aviva Forget-Manson
Arts I



Katie Garnham
Arts III



Sheelah Griffith
Masters Forestry



Graeme Andrews
Arts

Finding my way around is the worst part. I just started late, my first class was at two, if I had been here earlier maybe I would have had a better time, but I'm sure it will come along later in the day.

That guy, the sunglasses guy asking how my day was. I don't know, that idiotic question, "Do you need to buy the textbook?" That's a pretty bad question right there. "Um, could we change this exam to a take home exam?" That was probably the worst part of my day, the idiotic first-day questions.

Best part is the ice cream.

Best part of school is coming back and getting to know what you're going to be doing for the next year, sorting out the details. The worst part is knowing that the summer's coming to an end—now you have to get back to the real world.

Compiled and photographed by Mike Otto and Phil Head





PHIL HEAD

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT Punter Adam Fragomeni works on getting his kicks away after fumbling on one attempt and having another blocked in last weekend's loss to the Saskatchewan Huskies.

Controversy surrounds Golden Bear kickers

The startling departure of projected kicker/punter Stephen Wozmirsky left the Bears scrambling to find suitable replacements

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Sports Staff

Waiting for the results of a jury verdict, parole application or paternity test are all exceptions to the notion that no news is good news. But if you're the Golden Bears Football coaching staff after this off-season, you're also likely to include, "hearing from your starting kicker" to that list of exceptions.

After counting on the return of kicker Stephen Wozmirsky to handle the team's place-kicking and punting duties—and not hearing anything to contradict that from him—the Bears were shocked when he departed the

program just a day into training camp. The team was left with no time to recruit a replacement and scrambling to find a feasible arrangement for this season.

"I have no idea why he left it so late. I'd actually talked to him the week before about classes and nothing was mentioned," said Bears head coach Jerry Friesen, who was left with few options as replacements. "Our concern was in finding a punter. I was happy with the guys that we had, [linebacker Scott Stevenson and slotback Damon Fraietta,] but it just taxes two of our key players with one more responsibility.

"Both of those guys are key players in our offensive and defensive

schemes, and both would have been playing 60 snaps a game regardless. So to add onto that the responsibility of the kicking game would've been a lot," he added.

While the Bears did manage to poach punter Adam Fragomeni from the Alberta Junior Football League's Edmonton Huskies to fill one of their needs, Stevenson has still been forced to handle the place-kicking duties this season. It's a duty that the third-year linebacker doesn't mind handling, though he'll need to shake off some rust since he hasn't kicked regularly since high school.

"Obviously I didn't have the time that most kickers get to prepare for

the season, but I feel confident in my abilities and that I'll get better as the season progresses," said Stevenson, who kicked 31- and 32-yard field goals after missing his first attempt from 20 yards in last weekend's loss to Saskatchewan.

"I'm probably the most dressed up—equipment wise—looking kicker in the conference," Stevenson laughed. "But I don't think kicking and playing on the defence is that different from guys who are on the offence and also on the kicking team."

Though Stevenson had a relatively successful debut in his new role last weekend, Fragomeni was touched up for 14 points thanks to a fumbled snap

and blocked punt. However, the third-year education student believes that things will improve over the course of the season as he adjusts to life as a starter on a CIS team.

"The level of football is something that's really different for me; because even though I'd been with the Huskies I didn't get any real game experience," said Fragomeni, who was the Huskies backup kicker and stayed in Edmonton when the team went on road trips. "I'm glad I got a couple of good kicks off [in Saskatchewan] and even though we had the punt blocked and the fumble, it was a learning experience, and things can only get better from here."

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Alberta Union of Provincial Employees

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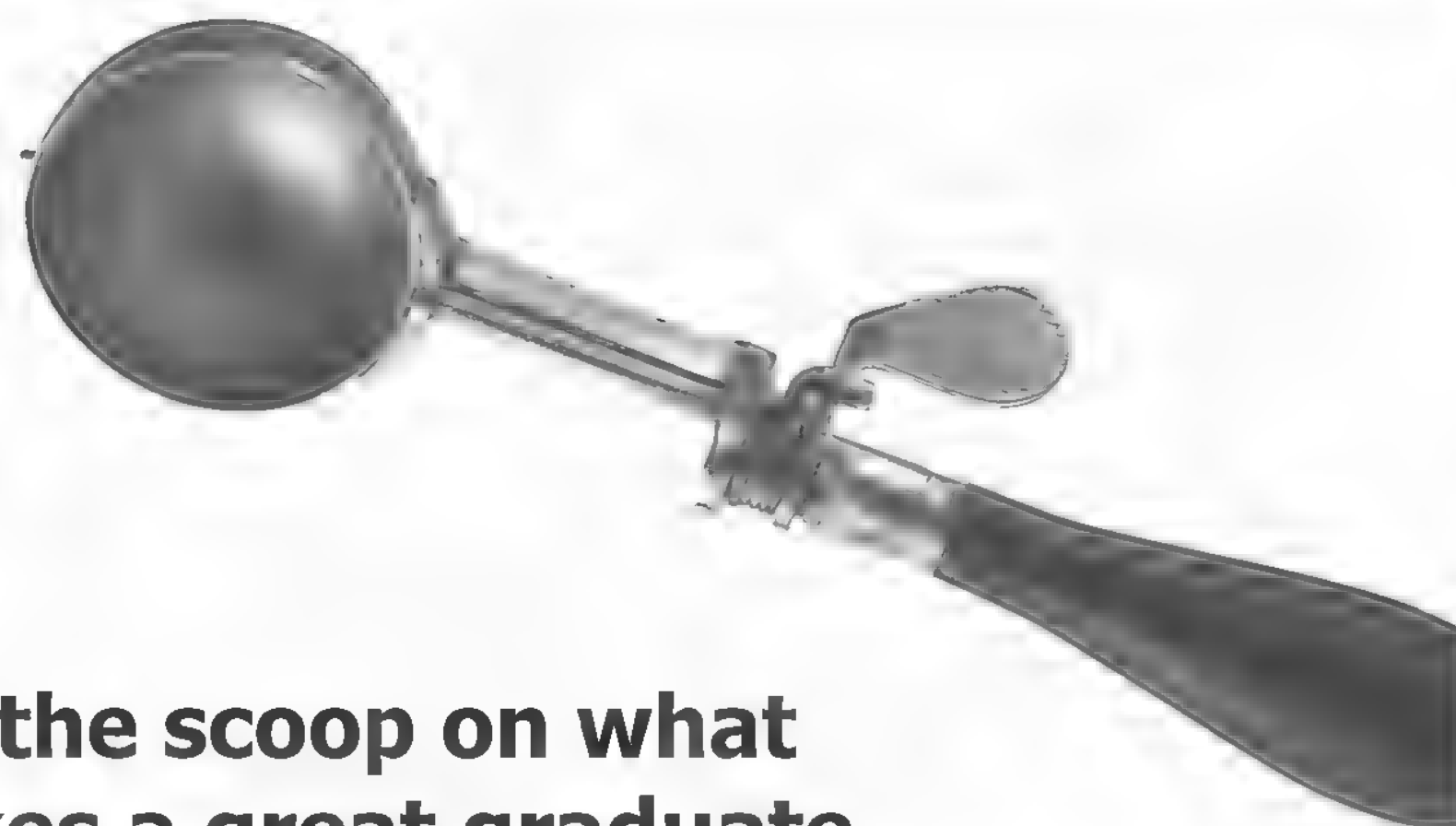
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Tuesday
Sept 19, 2006
9:00-11:00 am

All workshops located at:

**Council Chambers
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—sponsored by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Pandas hope for a quick start hosting Lethbridge and Calgary

Alberta wants to avoid “dropping points” by eliminating ties early in the year

PAUL OWEN
Sports Editor

When they opened last season with three straight ties, the Pandas soccer team tied their own noose on a 6-5-5 season that saw them miss the playoffs by two points. This year, the Pandas are determined to get off to a quicker start as they host the Lethbridge Pronghorns and Calgary Dinos this weekend.

“When we look at the start of the season the last two years, one of our problems is that we drop points in the beginning. Taking six points from this weekend will set us up that much better for the playoffs. Right off the bat we really need to be focused and understand how much every game counts,” Pandas head coach Liz Jepsen said. “We can’t continue to drop points by tying games we should win. We can’t settle for that complacency.”

“We have a sense of urgency,” striker Alix Strap added. “The season is so short, and we need to win a lot more games: no more ties.”

The Pandas avoided the tie while downing Lethbridge 3-1 and Calgary 1-0 in a pre-season tournament thanks in large part to Strap and fellow strikers Claire Thomas and Amy Ciezki. The Pandas scored

twelve goals in four games in the weekend tournament in Lethbridge.

“The nice thing about the 4-3-3 is that you can attack well with it, but it adapts to handle what you’re opponents’ attack is like,” Jepsen explained. “So I think that going at them with an attacking system is the way to go. The best thing about our system is that it lets us make the game unpredictable. We need to make sure that we have a lot of diversity.

“We really need to be focused and understand how much every game counts. We can’t continue to drop points by tying games we should win. We can’t settle for that complacency.”

LIZ JEPSEN
PANDAS HEAD COACH

“Amy Ciezki ran through people in the flanks, and we scored a ton of goals in the same way, but team swill be more prepared for that and

we need to develop different ways of scoring.”

The Pandas’ offensive abilities will help against Calgary, who recently graduated their all-star keeper, but may run into a roadblock with the Pronghorns’ back line.

“I’m sure that [the Pronghorns] will be well organized. They have a very strong keeper; I think that will be our biggest challenge: getting through their system and then actually being able to capitalize on our opportunities,” said Jepsen.

While their offence has remained as potent as ever, the Pandas have also shown renewed focus on the defensive side of the ball, recording three shutouts.

“We’re all more comfortable playing with each other, so we have more confidence and know each other’s tendencies,” sweeper Natalie Swain said.

The Pandas rebounded from their disappointing showing to make the most of their automatic bye into nationals by placing fifth, and the resilient result is still fresh in the Pandas’ minds as they prepare for the new season.

“We know we could have done a lot better last season, so this year we’re looking to play off nationals and get back there again,” Strap said.



FILE PHOTO: LEANNE FONG

HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE Striker Amy Ciezki scored ten goals last year.

Field hockey team prepares to defend national title

PAUL OWEN
Sports Editor

For the Pandas field hockey team, last year’s national championship doubled as a statement to the field hockey world that they were ready to be a perennial powerhouse. Thanks to a very talented recruiting class and a positive ripple effect on the field hockey community, they just might be ready to back it up.

“We have a really good crop of rookies, and we’re excited about their talent,” said head coach Carla Somerville, last year’s CIS coach of the year. “I think we’re a more talented team, but that in our approach to the game, we’re a little bit inexperienced. We’re not playing at home, which is always a bit of a negative, but we’ve overcome the biggest challenge: we know how to win. Before we always stumbled with the challenge of winning, so we should be confident to start the year.”

“Anytime another team or more teams win, it gives credence to your sport.”

CARLA SOMERVILLE
PANDAS HEAD COACH

The inexperience is due to the graduation of a pair of all-stars—Diana Hughes and AJ Johnson—who Somerville described as very demanding and intense players. Despite these losses, the Pandas still have goaltender Sarah Houlihan; last year’s playoff hero, she’s now entering her fifth year and will be heavily relied on if the Pandas have any hope of repeating.



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

THOSE DON’T LOOK LIKE LEGAL CURVES The Pandas should field another strong team after spending the summer trying to grow field hockey in Edmonton.

“As big of a challenge as winning a national championship was, it’s going to be harder to defend it,” Somerville said. “We’re always going to have rebuilding years and challenges, but we’re at a point now where we think we can establish ourselves as one of the best programs in the country, year in and year out.”

While the Pandas championship has

been good for the sport in Edmonton, it’s also been good for midfielder Erin Mason, who scored the Pandas’ lone goal in the CIS final. Mason gained notice at the national finals and was picked up by the national team.

Over the summer, the Pandas refused to rest on their laurels, instead donning the Green and Gold, along with a shiny, new, national cham-

pionship ring, and promoting field hockey in the Edmonton area. Field hockey was almost axed as a CIS sport in the spring of 2005, and Somerville sees their championship as a way to help ensure that field hockey remains in CIS.

“It just shows that any program can put together a good run and become a good program. But, anytime another

team or more teams win, it gives more credence to your sport,” she said. “We’re trying to grow the sport. We have a couple of Edmonton players coming out of the junior leagues who look like will be coming into the University program. They’re excited about making the team and entering the program, and it just generates from level to level.”

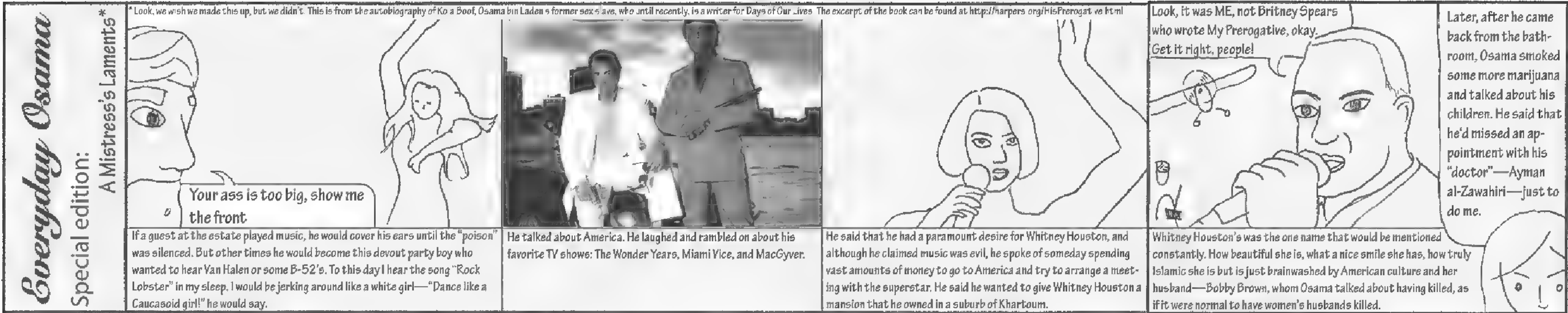
AN ORIENTATION CLASSIC by Mike Winters



SUMMER SILLIES by Chris Krause



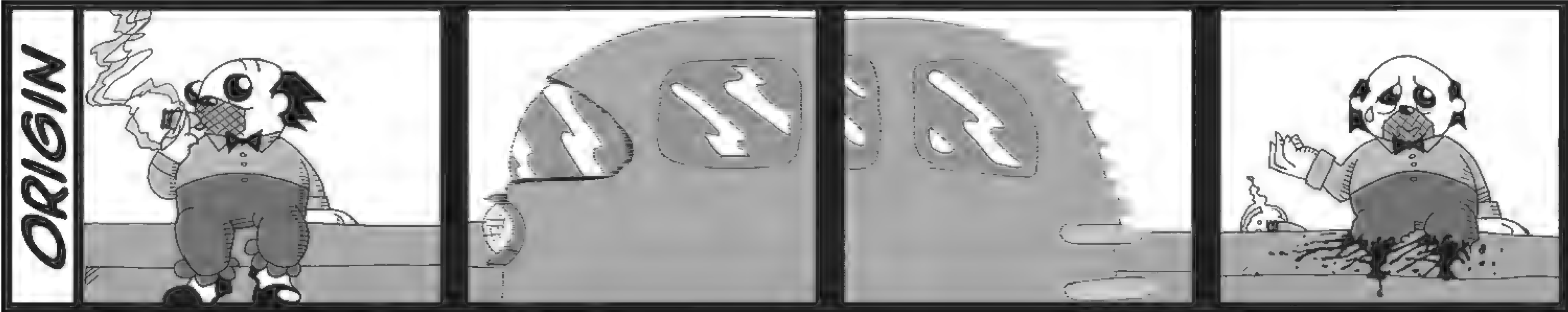
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QUEER by Marie-Annick Jean



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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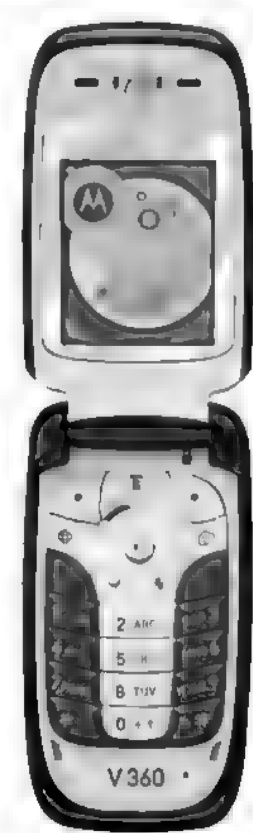
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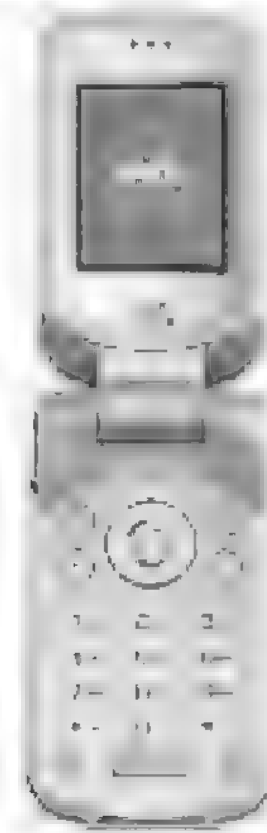


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@wOW

week of welcome 2006

geeks unite

september 5-10

TUESDAY

**Orientation Afterparty,
WOW Kick Off Party**
All Ages/Licensed
Powerplant

WEDNESDAY

Clubs Fair
9:00AM – 4:30PM
Quad

Rapid Fire Theatre
8:00PM
Free show. No minors
Powerplant

Karaoke Idol
9:00PM
No minors
RATT

THURSDAY

Pancake Breakfast
7:30AM – 9:30AM
Celebration Plaza

Clubs Fair
9:00AM – 4:30PM
Quad

**Campus St. Jean
Barbecue**
11:00AM – 1:00PM
CSJ Patio

Beer Gardens
12:00AM – 6:00PM
Performances by DJ Allan
Suarez, Bebop Cortez
with The Subatomics and
guests. No minors
Quad
Security provided by SDC & Safewalk

Taste of the U
5:00PM – 8:00PM
\$2 admission or
food bank donation.
Alumni Room in SUB
Tours by Campus Ambassadors and
Campus Food Bank

**House of Blues presents
Matt Costa, with The 88**
Doors at 8:00PM
\$16.50 advance tickets.
No minors
Powerplant

FRIDAY

Pancake Breakfast
7:30AM – 9:30AM
Celebration Plaza

Clubs Fair
9:00AM – 3:30PM
Quad

ECOS Bike Check
12:00PM – 4:00PM
Celebration Plaza

Beer Gardens
12:00PM – 6:00PM
Performances by
Armchair, Cynics,
Murder City Sparrows,
Exit this Side. No minors
Quad
Security provided by SDC
& Safewalk

**Tupelo Honey, with
Drive by Punch,
radioforhelp, and
The Line Atlantic**
Doors at 8:00PM
\$13 advance tickets.
All Ages/Licensed
Dinwoodie

Geek Out Party
8:00PM
Costumes encouraged.
No minors
Powerplant

SATURDAY

Shinerama
8:00AM
Celebration Plaza

Beat the Geeks
8:00PM
Compete for pride
and prizes. No minors
RATT

**Live Music at the
Plant**
Doors at 8:00PM
\$8 Tickets. No minors
Powerplant

Sleeping Bag Drive-in
10:00PM
Playing V for Vendetta
and Serenity.
Quad
Volunteers by Safewalk

SUNDAY

**Bedouin Soundclash,
with Guests**
Doors at 7:00PM
\$20 advance tickets.
All Ages/Licensed
Dinwoodie

featuring

week of welcome 2006

TUPELO

HONEY

8:00PM
TICKETS \$11 IN ADVANCE
THE 88, DRIVE BY PUNCH, RADIOFORHELP, AND THE LINE ATLANTIC
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH @ DINWOODIE LOUNGE



WITH DRIVE BY PUNCH,
RADIOFORHELP
AND THE LINE ATLANTIC
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH @ DINWOODIE LOUNGE

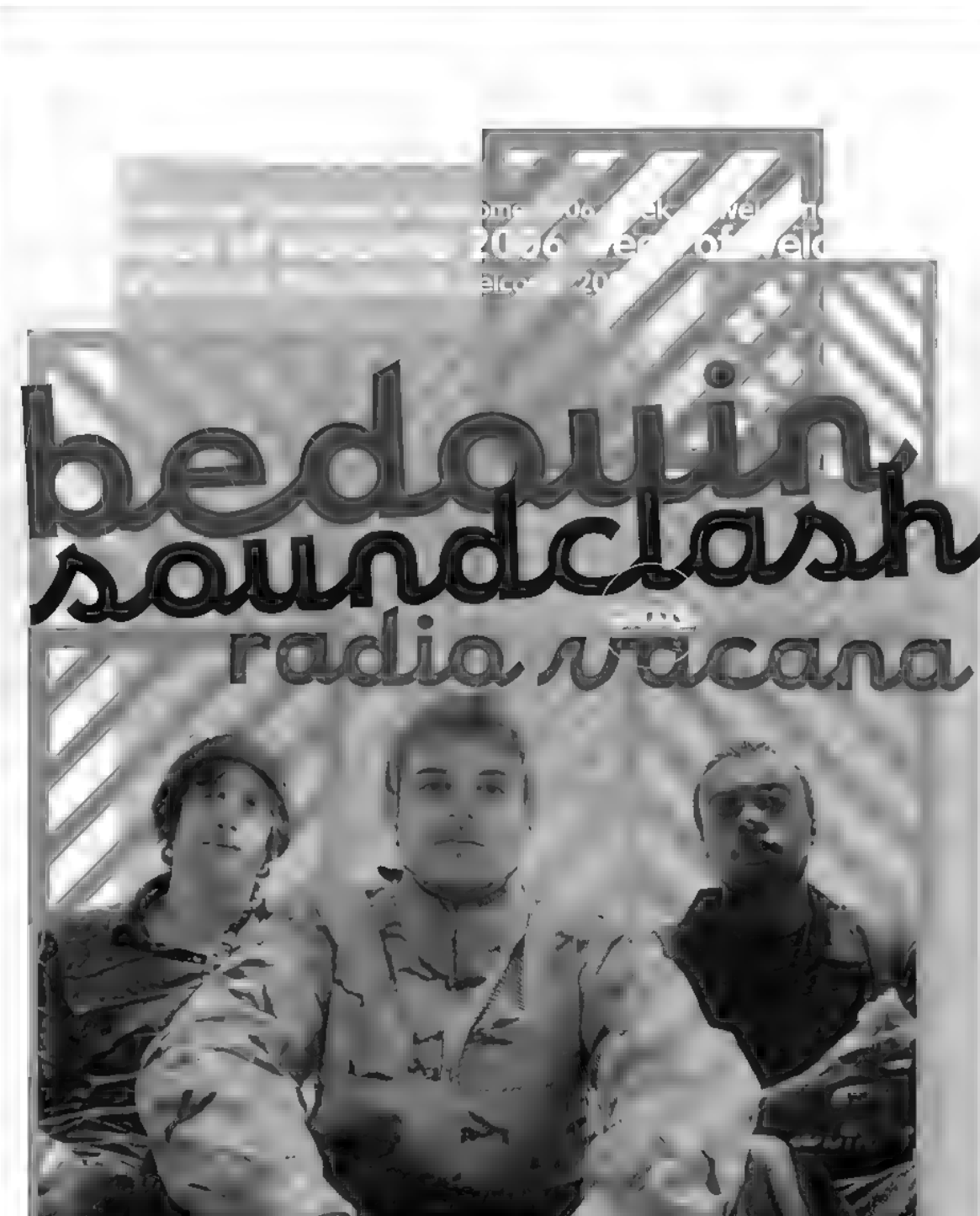
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Offer Valid September 7 - September 10, 2006

Sobeys Ready to serve.

Mott's, Clamato Cocktail, 1.89 L



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JACKSON HINTON

ONCE UPON A TIME After a year-and-a-half, Klein's promise for the most affordable PSE in Canada remains unfulfilled.

SU says *A Learning Alberta* final report doesn't deliver

Report's recommendations should go further in increasing affordability, critics argue

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

When Premier Ralph Klein promised in February 2005 to make Alberta's postsecondary education system the most affordable in Canada, student representatives vowed to hold him to his word, and then-minister of advanced education Dave Hancock launched the *A Learning Alberta* review to explore how this pledge could be achieved.

However, after a year and a half of extended deadlines, a ministerial change, deregulation of tuition policy and continuous debate, the *A Learning Alberta* review ended with little media attention on 5 June.

"From my standpoint, the review started off with a bang and ended with a whimper," Liberal Official Advanced Education Critic Dave Taylor said.

Students' Union President Sam Power credited the review for having sparked ample debate on the province's postsecondary issues, but expressed her disappointment at its lack of concrete results.

"I'm actually very scared for where postsecondary stands right now; because, I think, in the eyes of the government and in the eyes of some of the public, they believe that the issue of affordable tuition and quality education have been solved because of this review—and that's far from the case," Power said.

According to Power, no headway has been made in solving the issues

that were under constant debate during the review process.

"There's been no increased dedication of funding to institutions, nor has there been a solution to increasing tuition fees for students and solving the affordability problems," she said.

However, Alberta's Advanced Education Minister Denis Herard assured the recommendations raised by the review were being taken into account.

"All of that is currently being summarized and put into a report for me," Herard explained. "Essentially, students will be very pleased with what it is we're doing because most of the problems that were identified to us by students are being worked on."

According to SU Vice-President (External) Dave Cournoyer, student representatives were told in a private meeting with the Minister last week to anticipate an announcement prior to the leadership changeover on a new regulated tuition policy.

However, Cournoyer remained adamant that the SU would continue to lobby to have tuition policy placed back into legislation, regardless of how appealing the new policy appears.

"There's no accountability to Albertans that this new policy that the Minister will announce in the next couple months will stay the same in six months from now when the new premier takes over," Cournoyer said, noting the deregulation of tuition policy allows for changes to be made to it without debate in the legislature.

Aware of students' concerns, Herard has promoted regulated policies for their flexibility and is encouraging students to first participate in this process prior to deciding on its effectiveness.

"If you put something in regulation, then you have the ability for continuous improvement, and so if some part of this doesn't work quite right for students, then we can change the regulation quite easily to accommodate their needs," Herard said, adding he would be open to re-evaluating the re-legislation of tuition policy after first attempting a regulated system.

"If in the end it doesn't appear that it's going to result in agreement, then we can look at putting it back into legislation."

But Cournoyer wasn't convinced this new policy would make up for the loss of the high-energy momentum that came out of the forum a year and a half ago, nor did he expect it would fulfill the review's founding promise of creating the most affordable postsecondary system in Canada.

"[Considering] the amount of effort that so many stakeholders put into this review and the trust they put into pursuing this review, it's underwhelming, it's unvisionary and disappointing," he said. "It's 24 pages of vague recommendations set with timelines for 2025. If Albertans were looking for a true *A Learning Alberta*, or a true best postsecondary education system in the country, this is not going to deliver on it."

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Scott Lilwall

THAT'S MY BIKE YOU'RE STEALING

On 31 August, at around 11pm, Campus Security Services received a report that someone caught two males who were attempting to steal his bike. The pair of would-be bike thieves were promptly caught and arrested by CSS members. They were charged with counts of attempted theft and assault. The two troublemakers were eventually released into the custody of the Edmonton Police Service.

DRIVE-BY PURSE SNATCHING FOILED

On 4 September, at around 8am, a truck containing three females pulled a U-turn on 87 Avenue and drove up alongside a female student. While one of the females in the truck distracted the lone woman by asking for directions around campus, one of the others grabbed the pedestrian's purse and pulled it into the truck. The victim quickly went to the CSS office, sans purse, and reported the incident.

Campus Security Services located the suspects in the area of 109 Street a short time later at which point the EPS was called to the scene. Two female youths were arrested and charged with several offences, it was also determined that the truck had been reported stolen.

Most of the complainant's property was recovered.

CAMPUS FIREBUGS STILL AT LARGE

CSS received a call on 5 September at around 3:30pm informing them that three males had just started a fire in the field just west of the Campus Saint-Jean.

But before CSS could apprehend the suspects, the fire starters fled and ran down into the river valley and evading capture. Upon further investigation, it appears that the budding pyromaniacs had attempted to start multiple fires in the field.

Anyone with information on the two suspects is asked to contact CSS at 492-5050.

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The Powerplant is a service of Your Students' Union for UofA students, staff, alumni, and their guests

President's address emphasizes personal and social growth

ADDRESS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Power then recited a quote from playwright George Bernard Shaw. "He said that, 'The reasonable man adapts himself to the world. The unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable.' I'm asking you to become unreasonable with me to create progress. Don't lose your belief in what the world should be. Find that one thing that you want to change in the world," Power said.

Afterwards, like a rock star emerging before a jubilant crowd, the President of the University of Alberta, Indira Samarasekera, delivered her brief yet motivating speech, reaffirming her pride in the U of A and its students. She also emphasized how university is a great catalyst for lifelong change.

"The University of Alberta is going to change your life and you. Every single one of you are going to change the lives of everyone around you—so take a good look at everyone around you," Samarasekera said. "Find them after four years. Ask them, 'Did you

change their lives and did they change your life?'"

President Samarasekera even humourously polled the audience. "I can see bright students. Raise your hand, bright students! I can see happy students. Raise your hand, happy students! I can see energetic students. Raise your hand! I can see bored students. Raise your hand!"

"I can see tomorrow's leaders in politics, in science, in arts and business! Now I see students who know how to think," Samarasekera said.

She concluded by offering advice to the audience about getting the most out of their postsecondary experience.

"First, the classroom, the laboratory or the library, this is where you will gain an enormous amount of knowledge. You will be challenged to look at things in new ways. You will develop your critical thinking skills and your problem solving."

"Number two, your peers—see them as an outlet," said Samarasekera, who emphasized how U of A students, despite their diverse back-



PHIL HEAD

YMCA U of A students wave their hands in the air as if they are simply not concerned at the President's address Tuesday.

grounds and differences, can still learn a lot from each other.

"I want you, for the years that you are here at the University of Alberta, to learn about each other. I want you to find out what makes each other tick. I want you to pick up new friendships, I want you to join new groups, and I

want you to have new experiences—because they will serve you for the rest of your life."

"Finally, the third area, and perhaps the most daunting: you are here to learn about yourself. Out of my heart, I will continue to work to ensure that you have the best profes-

sors and classrooms and libraries and student services as much as possible. Find out who you are and how you fit in this big crazy world. You are here out there, don't ever forget it. And who are you?"

The President and the crowd roared, "We are the University of Alberta!"

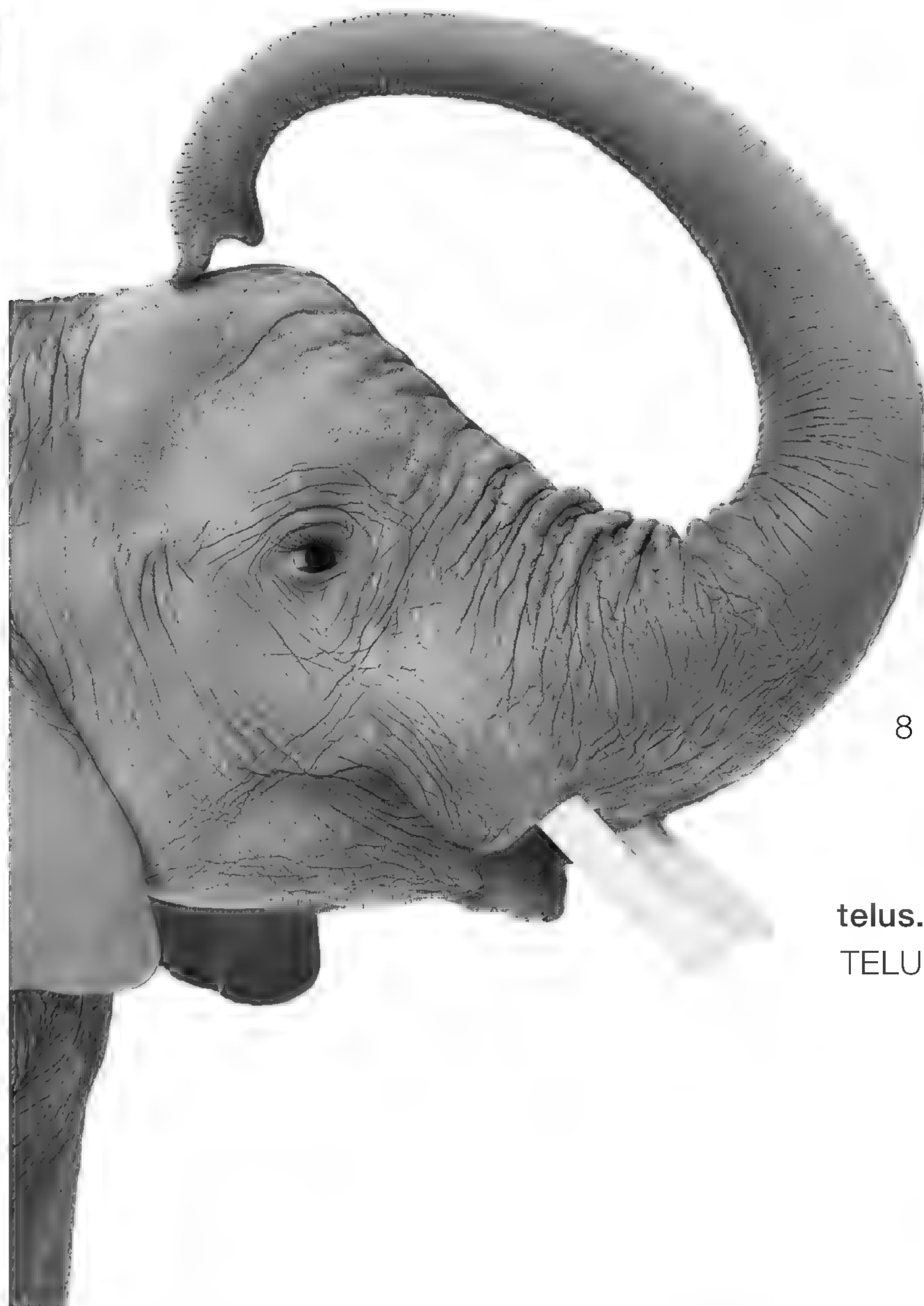
GATEWAY NEWS

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: MIKE OTTO AND PHIL HEAD

THE LITTLE PLANET THAT COULDN'T Now kids will have to just recall 'My Very Educated Mother Just Sent Us Nine ...'

Pluto left out in the cold

A new classification system has demoted the body to “dwarf planet” status, but some say the debate over the Pluto’s place in the heavens is far from over

DEREK LARSON
News Staff

Pluto, though struck from the league of planets on 24 August by the International Astronomical Union (IAU), may still hold its place in the heavens for many—at least for now.

The IAU voted to reclassify Pluto as a “dwarf planet,” a week after the IAU executive committee proposed a new definition of what constitutes a planet, which would have resulted in the addition of three new planets, bringing the total to twelve.

The new definition, the first “official” definition of a planet since the early days of astronomy in ancient Greece, has the clout of being agreed upon internationally by experts in the field.

“[The vote] is a healthy process,” says Dr Fred Clark, faculty lecturer for Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and past instructor of a course on the geology of the solar system. “It forces a crystallizing of the debate at some point; otherwise we can dither endlessly.”

However, according to Dr Chris Herd, professor of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Alberta, the debate surrounding the decision to demote Pluto may not be over yet.

“At this point, it just becomes a

matter of politics in the [IAU],” Herd said.

Meanwhile, Tony Whyte, author of *The Planet Pluto*, suggested that other motives may have triggered the push to oust Pluto.

“It mucks up the beautiful computer simulations to have a bunch of smaller objects suddenly appear,” Whyte said. “Maybe it was a plot by some planetary astronomers to demote [Pluto], and then they can ignore [it].”

**“Some of the
astronomers [in the
IAU] ... can’t tell a
planet from a Mars
bar.”**

TONY WHYTE
AUTHOR, *THE PLANET PLUTO*

The new definition of a planet was met with considerable outcry from the public, and left many researchers scratching their heads. Many have questioned the most telling point of the definition, that a planet must “have cleared its orbit” and are now checking to make sure the definition holds up for the remaining eight planets.

“Some of the astronomers [in the

IAU] ...can’t tell a planet from a Mars Bar,” Whyte said.

That there is a distinct difference between Pluto and the other four outer planets is undisputed—the argument lies primarily with the definition excluding Pluto as a true planet. “I’d say there is a good case for making Pluto an honorary planet,” Whyte said.

Herd disagreed, though, and sees Pluto as part of the Kuiper Belt, a wide stretch of objects made up of rocks and ice that sits at the edge of the solar system.

“[Pluto is] a king of the Kuiper Belt, as opposed to an actual planet,” he argued.

Herd went on to explain that the classification of Pluto as a non-planet would actually aid in the process of teaching about the formation of the solar system.

“If we realize that Pluto and these other objects [can be grouped] together with the Kuiper Belt objects, then we can start to understand why they’re there,” Herd explained.

Though our understanding of Pluto’s place in the solar system is changing, this argument is far from resolved, and it may be many years before consensus is finally reached and it’s decided once and for all where in our solar system Pluto belongs.

SEE POINT-COUNTERPOINT ON PAGE 12

New ‘Plant still work-in-progress

PLANT ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“The guys like me who enjoyed going to the ‘Plant for a beer after a lecture on Wednesday afternoon can still go up to RATT. That hasn’t changed. We’re just offering something different,” Cunningham explained.

While excited about the changes to the Powerplant, Cunningham did admit that the plan was still taking off, and that there were a few growing pains to work through.

“With every new project, there are hurdles in the path. But all-in-all, I think things are going smoothly,” he said.

Warren Marco, a cook who works at the Powerplant, noted the same. “We were hoping to have this open last month. Unfortunately that wasn’t

possible due to construction issues. We don’t have a deep-freeze back there, and our ice cream machine isn’t working at the moment. But, we’re trying, and we’re asking for advice from students,” Marco said. “[But] I’m quite excited about it. It’s a good change.”

As for the response among students, it has been fairly positive, although with the caveat that there are still some kinks to be worked out.

“It’s kind of sad that they’re not going to have bar service there at all. But on the whole, it’s nice to see some changes,” Sharon O’Hoyan commented after finishing a meal at the buffet on Monday.

“If they got rid of the cabbage rolls, and put better labels and lighting on it, I’d come back, definitely,” she added.

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Risqué Girl Guide ads a tough cookie to swallow

ABBAS SOMJI
The Underground

SCARBOROUGH (CUP)—In a bid to boost recruitment figures, the Girl Guides of Canada (GGC) have kicked off a new advertising campaign that has come under public scrutiny in recent weeks.

The campaign, which made its debut mid-summer, features a series of risqué, graphic images that critics say come in stark contrast to the wholesome cookie-vending Girl Guide persona.

One particular ad depicts "Candi," a fictitious pre-teen songstress, posing provocatively for the camera, with a list of overtly sexual album tracks, such as "Taste Me" and "Naughty Girl" printed on a side tab. At the bottom of the ad, a strategically placed cartoon girl looks on, and points at the tagline that reads, "Why girls need guides."

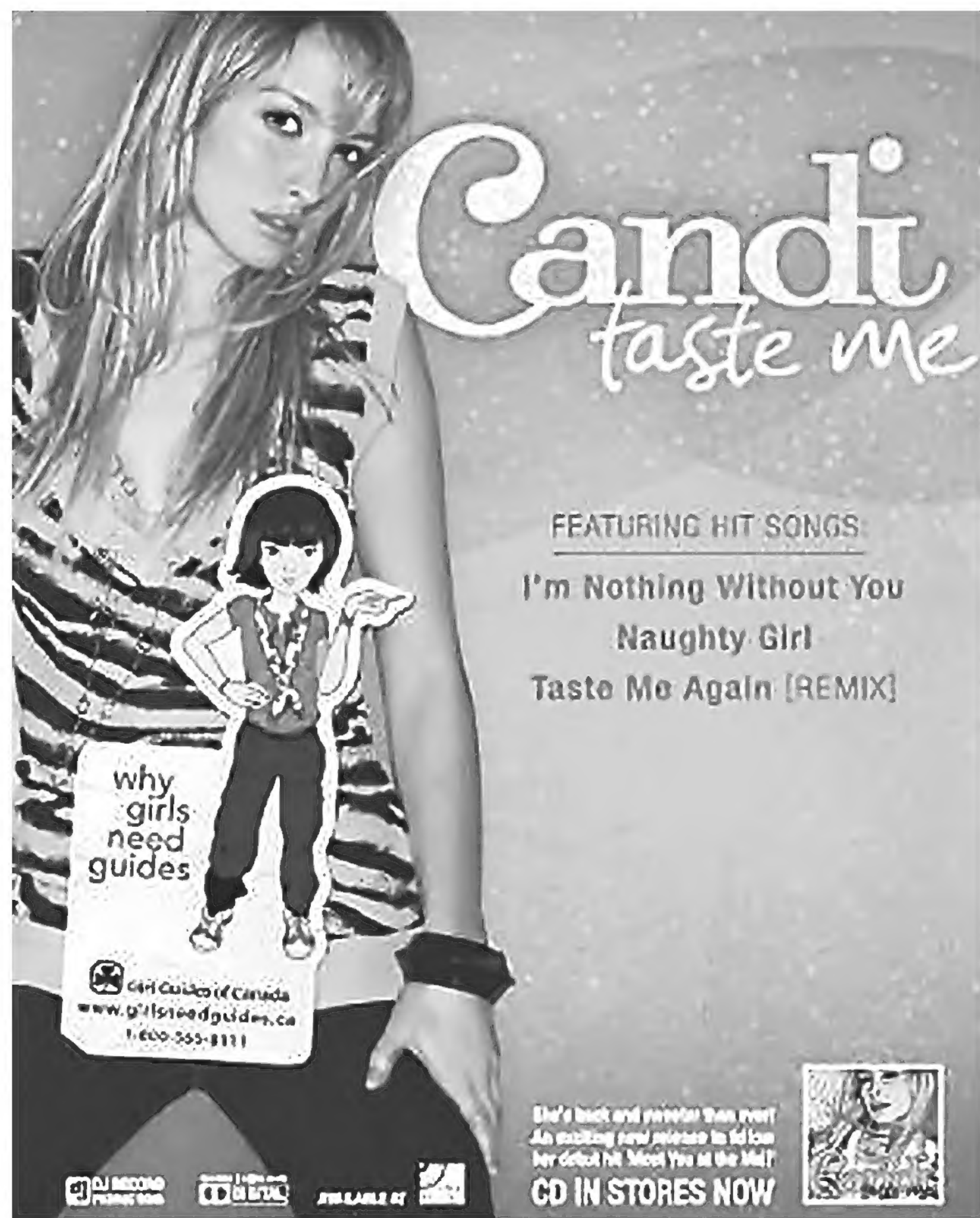
"The idea behind this campaign is just to turn the mirror back on society and say: 'If this is what your daughter is being exposed to on a daily basis, wouldn't it make sense to put her into Girl Guides?'" explained Angus Tucker, creative director of John St Advertising, who designed the ads.

Another ad is a web banner for cellulite cream, urging young girls to use it to prevent cellulite before it starts. While one final ad looks like a magazine cover called "Modern Girl" with titles of articles, such as "Make His Interests Your Interests—it's okay to pretend!" splashed across the front.

But at least one former Guide is not fond of the new ad campaign. Ashley Chin, a second-year Queen's University student, said the new Girl Guides ad campaign uses an inappropriate and misleading recruitment strategy.

"[Is Girl Guides] a means of preventative action? Or is it really an organization that offers an opportunity for girls to foster teamwork, leadership skills, and to learn and grow?"

Shauna Klein, marketing and development manager of Girl Guides



WANNA COOKIE? Suggestive advertising aims to boost Girl Guide enrolment.

Canada, said the campaign has been successful at bringing the Guides back into the public eye and that the general public has responded positively to the advertising campaign.

"The GGC program has always been about leadership development, self esteem, taking risks, making friends and having fun in a safe environment," Klein stressed.

Klein said the goal of the ad campaign is to make parents realize that impressionable young girls are now, more than ever, in need of strong mentors to direct them through the barrage of negative messages transmitted through the media.

Another reason for this new marketing tactic is a steady 20-year decline in GGC membership, due to competition from other organizations, clubs or community centres that offer recreational programs or activities.

Klein said she expects an increase in membership during the fall Guide registration because of the eye-catching advertising campaign.

According to Klein, the placement of the various ads—all at discounted rates—cost GGC \$500 000. The creative portion of the campaign was donated by John St Advertising, as part of their pro bono work with not-for-profit organizations.

Lakehead U mocks Bush

New "Yale Shmale" campaign hopes to attract students by poking fun at US President, but some say the advertismment could damage University's reputation

DOUG DIACZUK
The Argus

THUNDER BAY (CUP)—Lakehead University in Thunder Bay set out to grab the attention of potential students in southern Ontario with a new, edgy marketing campaign, but what they got was worldwide attention.

The campaign, unveiled by Lakehead on 25 August, depicted US President George W Bush and the slogan "Yale Shmale" followed by the statement, "Just because you go an Ivy League school doesn't necessarily mean you're smart." The campaign created a story that was picked up by major networks worldwide, including CBC, CNN and BBC.

"We have generated media attention that we couldn't possibly buy in the next ten years," Lakehead Director of Communications Eleanor Abaya stated.

But not everyone sees the attention as a positive thing.

Isabelle Poniatowski, President of the Lakehead's Student Union,

described her reaction to the ad campaign as "one of repugnance."

"This ad is so lowbrow that it is embarrassing," she said.

She also said that the Student Union has been flooded with e-mails and calls from people who don't believe the ad campaign was in good taste.

"I received a lot of support from students, faculty and staff from Lakehead that also find it embarrassing. There are so many great things about Lakehead ... [but] I haven't seen the ads that say we have clean air. That we have trees," Poniatowski said.

"Yale does not condone the use of its logo by other institutions," Dorie Baker, Yale University's Director of Public Affairs, said.

"I don't even want to comment on it. It's too silly for me to comment on," she said, when asked to comment further.

The decision to use such a campaign was made because other, safer campaigns have been exhausted and elicit little response, Lakehead President Fred

Gilbert said.

"If students or faculty felt truly offended by the campaign, then I'm sorry. I do believe the campaign has served its purpose," Gilbert went on to say.

Gilbert believes some view the campaign as negative because they see it as a political statement. However Gilbert says this wasn't the intention, and using the image of Bush was based on his iconic status.

"If we showed young people a picture of Stephen Harper, they wouldn't know who it was and wouldn't intrigue them to take the next step to go to the website."

Gilbert stressed that it was supposed to be "tongue-in-cheek," and expressed confidence that Lakehead's credibility will not be negatively affected by the campaign.

According to Abaya, more than 95 per cent of the targeted market described the ad as "cool and awesome."

"Only time will tell [if credibility has been damaged]," she said.



SQUARING OFF The unsuccessful bid to kill Bill 40 drew the Opposition and student representatives together last May.

SUMMER IN REVIEW

Compiled by Scott Lilwall

Original stories written by Natalie Climenhaga and Scott Lilwall

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS GAIN CHANCE TO FIND OFF CAMPUS WORK

Summer Issue 1, 18 May

A new project launched by the provincial government this summer allowed international students at the University of Alberta to find off-campus employment for the first time. The Off-Campus Work Permit Program allowed students to find work in other areas of the city for up to 40 hours a week during summer and winter breaks, and up to 20 hours a week during regular academic sessions.

To take part in the program, which launched at the U of A on 1 June, international students need to apply for a permit from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and maintain a certain GPA to stay eligible for off-campus work.

BILL 40 REGULATES TUITION POLICY

Summer issue 1, 18 May

Despite attempts by student advocates to stop Bill 40 from passing in the Legislature, the controversial policy, which impacts tuition policy in Alberta, was passed on 18 May. The bill amended the *Postsecondary Learning Act* to remove tuition policy from legislation and make it possible for the Tory Cabinet to make future decisions on tuition without having to debate the matter in the legislature. The bill also removed the policy that set a cap on the percentage of operating costs that an institution could charge students.

Advanced Education Minister Denis Herard explained that moving tuition policy from legislation to regulation would allow for policies to be changed quickly, bypassing the sometimes-lengthy process of debate and allowing benefits to reach students in better time.

But Raj Pannu, Advanced Education critic for the NDP, and Liberal Advanced Education Critic Dave Taylor, both vowed to kill Bill 40, arguing that having

the Cabinet responsible for the tuition policy would provide no accountability and would offer no voice to students.

Students' Union President Samantha Powers and Vice-President (External) Dave Cournoyer were also against the bill. They, along with student government officials from the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge, have called for Herard to bring tuition policy back under the power of the Legislature.

POSTSECONDARY REVIEW FINAL REPORT DOESN'T GO FAR ENOUGH; SU

Summer issue 2, 8 June

On 5 June, the Alberta Government announced their final report on the state of postsecondary education in the province. The report, which makes a number of recommendations aimed at improving Alberta's advanced education system, was criticized by some for not addressing all of the important issues.

The report was compiled after a committee consulted around 3000 Albertan students, administrators and instructors. Among the recommendations made by the committee were increasing literacy in the province and encouraging more high school graduates to attend postsecondary institutions. Herard praised the recommendations in the report, and stated that another four months of consultation would be needed before a plan could be implemented in September 2007.

But Pannu expressed disappointment at Herard's insistence for more consultation, arguing that many of the recommendations in the report were very explicit, and should be acted on right away. Cournoyer was also disappointed with the wait, and said that the final report was underwhelming for students who were hoping more would be done to make advanced education in the province more affordable.

SU APPEALS CAMPUS BUSINESS TAX

Summer issue 1, 8 June

In early June, the SU and the University of Alberta Administration submitted a joint appeal regarding a City of Edmonton tax assessment that was imposed on campus businesses.

Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Chris Cunningham explained that, up until 2005, SU-run businesses

on campus were considered to be non-profit, as any money made was put towards funding student services. However, in both 2005 and 2006, the City taxed the businesses as for-profit endeavors. While no exact figure was given, City Councillor Michael Phair did say that the taxes would come out to a substantial amount. Phair went on to say that to qualify as a non-profit organization, certain criteria had to be met, but if the taxes were levied unfairly, the appeals process would rectify the problem.

Cunningham explained that any taxes imposed on campus businesses would have a direct effect on the kinds of student services that can be provided by the SU. The appeals for both the 2005 and 2006 assessments are currently pending.

ASA FUNDS GO MISSING FROM OFFICE

Summer issue 4, 10 August

In mid-June, \$4000 was discovered to be missing from the Arts Students' Association (ASA), prompting worries about accountability and security issues within the organization. The money, which was raised during the Arts students' graduation banquet on 9 June, was found to be missing by then-ASA president Ariana Barer, who reported the incident to the vice-president at the time, Blythe Morrow. After a bit of investigation, Morrow contacted Arts councillor Michelle Kelly, who had handled the money after the banquet and was tasked with taking the assets to the safe in the ASA office.



Kelly insisted that the money was in the office, but admitted that she had not actually put the money in the safe, instead placing it on a nearby table. A subsequent cleaning of the office turned up no trace of the missing money. At this moment, despite an investigation by the Edmonton Police Service, no charges have been laid in the case, and no one has been mentioned as being a suspect.

Morrow laments that the biggest problem isn't the missing money, but rather the blow that the ASA's image will take in the eyes of students. She explained that it would be an uphill battle for the organization to restore a sense of responsibility and transparency after the disappearance of the funds.

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By-Election Nominations

We are now accepting nominations for the Students' Union By-Election to be held on September 28 & 29.

The following positions available are listed below by faculty:

Agriculture Forestry and Home Economics

- 2 Students' Union Council Seats
- 1 General Faculties Council Seat

Arts

- 3 Students' Union Council Seats
- 4 General Faculties Council Seats

Business

- 1 General Faculties Council Seat

Education

- 3 Students' Union Council Seats
- 4 General Faculties Council Seats

Engineering

- 1 Students' Union Council Seat

Faculte St. Jean

- 1 General Faculties Council Seat

Medicine and Dentistry

- 1 General Faculties Council Seats

Native Studies

- 1 Students' Union Council Seat
- 1 General Faculties Council Seat

Nursing

- 2 Students' Union Council Seats
- 2 General Faculties Council Seats

Open Studies

- 1 Students' Union Council Seat

Pharmacy

- 1 Students' Union Council Seat
- 1 General Faculties Council Seat

Rehab Medicine

- 1 Students' Union Council Seat
- 1 General Faculties Council Seat

Nomination Packages are available from 2-900 SUB, 3-02K SUB, or online at www.su.ualberta.ca/vote

Nominations are due on September 18 @ 17:00

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STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS 2006

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Sept 18 Banff, AB
Sept 21 Red Deer, AB
Sept 22 Edmonton, AB
Sept 23 Calgary, AB
Sept 25/26 Nelson, BC
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SEPTEMBER 14

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OPINION

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca ♦ thursday, 7 september, 2006

Don't get stung by the plagiarism-ray

THE WORLD IS IN MOURNING, AND IT'S NO wonder why. Australian animal lover Steve Irwin, better known as the Crocodile Hunter, has met his end, stung in the heart by one of the many dangerous creatures he spent his life surveying in the wild. And despite his propensity for taunting the hapless beasts, police say there's no evidence Irwin provoked the stingray, whose deadly barb pierced his chest, causing his untimely demise.

The 44-year-old Crocodile Hunter's legendary status exists because he undertook the not-so-noble tasks of wrestling crocodiles and facing off against poisonous snakes—not to mention the time he put his month-old son into his path of self-destruction as he fed a 13-foot crocodile in front of a crowd of onlookers at an Australian zoo.

Irwin's final stunt, caught on tape during the filming of a new TV series, was the last episode in a lifetime of cheating death. It was a fitting end indeed, as there comes a time in every man's life when he just has to die.

Let this be a lesson to you, dear students, because life in academia plays to a similar tune. Undoubtedly, over the course of the past couple of days, each new professor in each new classroom has given you the same spiel on the rules and regulations of academia, and perhaps they seemed to overemphasize the consequences of breaking the cardinal rule: plagiarize and your time at university is immediately over.

Some rules are meant to be broken, like when your mother tells you not to eat fudge for breakfast or when you spend the entire day in bed because you're busy, uh, sleeping. Other more serious offences, like driving 30km over the speed limit because you were rocking out to your favourite band on the first sunny day after a long, depressing winter, can be rectified by paying a hefty fine. However, storing forbidden notes on your fancy calculator before a dreaded mid-term exam or buying an essay off the Internet because you decided to get drunk the night before it was due are evil doings that will get you more than just a slap on the wrist. It may seem harsh, but you won't get any second chances and it will ruin your personal credibility, maybe for a lifetime.

So if you didn't learn anything watching Steve Irwin on the Discovery Channel, at least learn this: some risks aren't worth taking. In conclusion, if you want your university career to survive, don't cheat. Otherwise, you may end up getting impaled by a stingray. Or, you know, expelled.

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Managing Editor

End of WOW will be a welcome relief

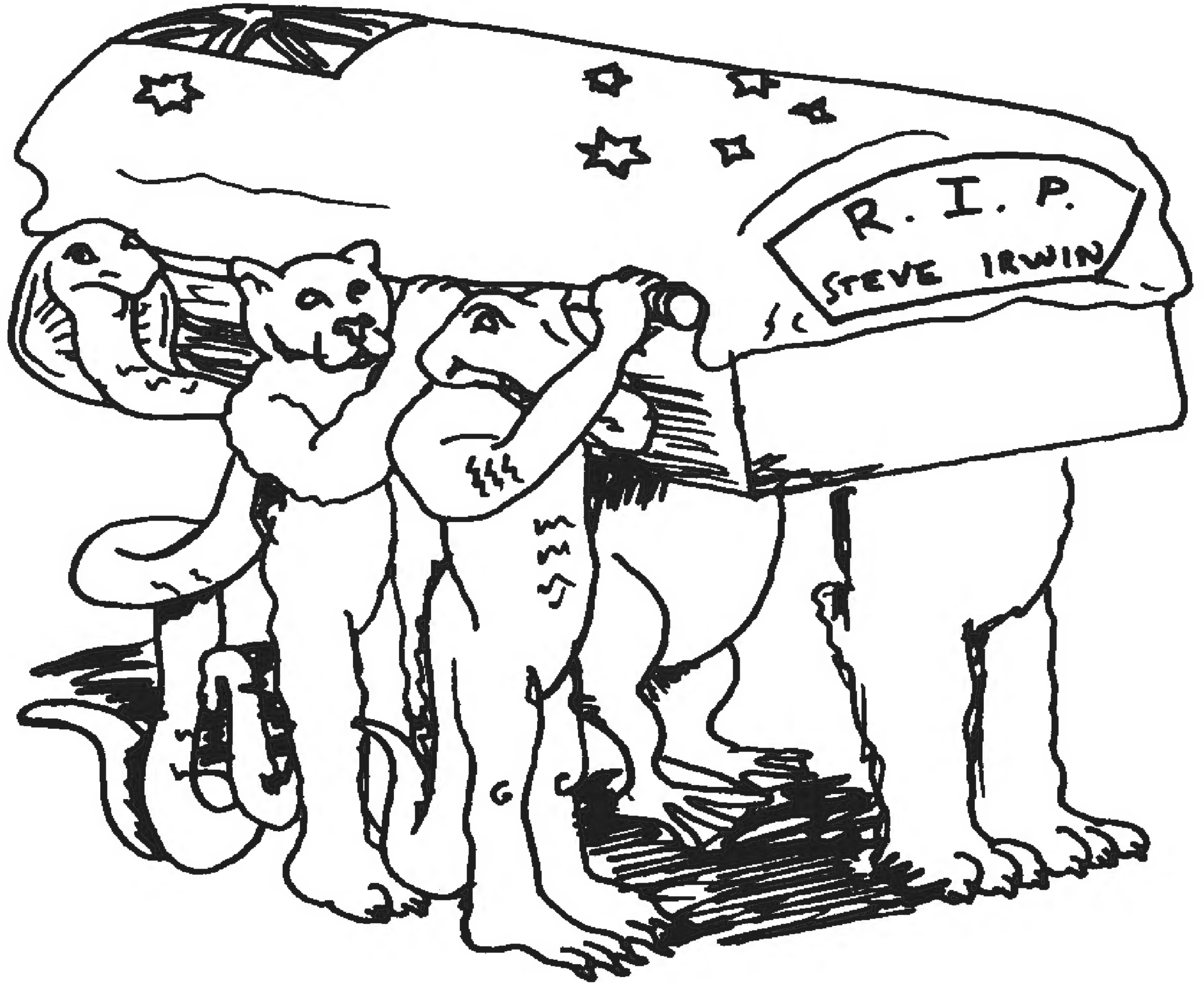
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT THE POINT OF OUR University's Annual Week of Welcome (WOW) was to welcome students to campus. But anyone who's attempted to navigate their way through Quad or SUB during this hectic time can attest, this is emphatically not how most students feel.

I've got nothing against the myriad student groups and organizations—the Gateway proudly among them—that dot the still-summery landscape during WOW, and I can't stress enough the importance of extra-curricular activities for making new friends and breaking away from the often gruelling travails of academic life.

The problem is that for every honest volunteer recruitment table, there's some greedy, unaffiliated corporation, utilities company or drinking establishment that's looking to fast-talk the bright-eyed first-years into some contract or other.

You can't even make it to your next class without juggling an armload of brochures, coupons and three-year contracts. More often than not, however, this crap ends up all over the ground, presumably to be swept up once WOW finally, mercifully wraps up. Welcome to university indeed.

ADAM GAUMONT
Opinion Editor



12 '06

LETTERS

Insite an important step in Canada's fight against drug addiction

I want to congratulate you on a great article detailing the issues about Insite (re: "Safe-injection sites too effective to shoot down," 31 August). Thankfully it seems that the Conservatives have chosen sanity over politics for a few more months at least. Projects like Insite are essential if drug users are to have any way to change their lives. Of course it is great to have good treatment option available for people as well—I have no quarrel with those who remind us of our paltry investments in such services. We should at least ensure that people who use drugs have the means to stay alive until society is more responsive to their complex predicament.

BILL NELLES
Qualicum Drug Treatment Centre
Qualicum, BC

Safe-injection sites not the only answer

Your article on safe-injection sites shows the evidence is in and the sites are very effective. What's missing from your analysis are other alternatives. Just because SISs are better than nothing does not mean they are the best of many alternatives for handling addicts.

The government owes it to the taxpayers to look for the best method for dealing with addicts in major centers,

not just the first one to be endorsed overwhelmingly by insiders.

JOHN MCMURRAY
Alumnus

Cardboard comic crass

I just transferred from the University of Waterloo to the U of A, and I happened to pick up last Thursday's issue (31 August)—the orientation issue, of course—of the Gateway.

Overall my impressions were very favorable—I have to say, you guys assemble a very slick publication here—but one thing struck me as odd. That one thing is Mr Shostak's "Cardboard Constabulary" comic on page 28; this dumb little number not only flies in the face of the time, money and volunteer efforts put into this year's orientation, but also manages to fit in a jab at homosexuals in general—all in four succinct frames.

I've been on the editorial boards of a high school and university-level newspaper, and I've never seen an EiC approve something so counter-productive and blatantly discriminatory. For an "orientation" issue this Gateway failed miserably at welcoming the new student body with fair, inclusive language, let alone showing evidence of social tolerance.

My only hope is that Shostak isn't a regular contributor, or that at the very least he'll consider the appropriateness of his next comic. Suffice it to say that at this rate the Gateway's editorial board isn't one that I'd consider joining any time soon.

STEVE EDGE
Arts I

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any

letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters should include the name, student ID number, program and year of study to be considered.

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

U of A not the bastion of gender equality that it claims to be

So, I understand this attitude is reflective of a number of individuals (ie men) who attend the University of Alberta, a university which claims, quote, to be an "equal-opportunities university," so much so that the idea of the freedom of private enterprise is so cherished that the manager of the drug store in a student-owned housing which is antithetical to the Bill of Human Rights—ie the direct exploitation of a woman to sell his product, which happens to be in this case a \$1.75 issue of Playboy.

To many women, the idea of a woman as an object is repulsive. We are not chattel; [not] something to be owned and petted. We are not playmates or playthings. Further, a society which requires a rake-off from the sale of cigarettes, the sale of liquor and the sale of over one half of humanity's population is a sick society. We are not equitable with booze and tobacco.

It would be a difficult if not insurmountable endeavour to evoke a change in attitude for the total society, but in an institution where liberal, idealistic and intelligent individuals exist, one would hope women would be recognized on an equal basis with their male counterparts.

The University of Alberta is not an equal-opportunities university. What its advocates espouse is hypocrisy. The courses relating to women have been severely cut back this year and inadequate counselling is still a problem.

Some people suggest we stop bitching and channel our energies into other areas. Who knows, then perhaps our upcoming sisters will have a choice of a course in Exercise Physiology for the Development of the Mammary Glands, or in other words, how to whittle your waist, reduce your hips and increase the size of your boobs so that perhaps you will achieve the envied (?) status of Playboy's Playmate of the Month. Hang in there, sisters.

MARGARET OSEEN
4 December, 1975

From the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance—or are just really hilarious.